Hafa Adai!

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9 DAYS before federalization

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to vote in the Nov. 23 runoff election?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of November 18, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Ft. Hood Probe
A Pentagon inquiry into how the military services keep watch on volatile soldiers is likely.
NATION...Page 20

Coy Sarah
Sarah Palin plays it coy about a possible 2012 presidential run, but keeps the door open.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 24

OAG delegates power to issue 'umbrella permits' **PAGE 5**
Case vs suspect in armed robbery dismissed. **PAGE 6**

A CLOSER LOOK AT CHC

When emergency beckons

JUDE O. MARFIL

Dr. Shirish Balachandra, right, and Dr. Gregory Kotheimer, head of the Emergency Medicine Department, look over patients' charts at the nurses' station of the Emergency Room.

By JUDE O. MARFIL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Last part of a series

The baby is screaming. "We're in the emergency room," the father says on his cell phone. He is in the hallway, pacing back and forth. He cannot talk on the phone inside the examination room with the baby screaming. The mother is rubbing her son's back. But the baby continues crying.

SPECIAL REPORT

See EMERGENCY on Page 18

MILITARY OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

'But work should start now'

$1.1B projects in FY 2010

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From practical tips that include being electronically savvy for online registration to working closely with firms now bidding for projects, CNMI contractors

See MILITARY on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Capt. Peter S. Lynch, commanding officer of the commanding officer of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, briefs participants in yesterday's Guam/CNMI Military Contracting Opportunities Symposium about opportunities on Tinian in connection with the $15-billion, multi-year military buildup in Guam.

Tug-of-war for next House speaker

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four independents will help decide the battle for the next speaker of the House of Representatives, unlike the Senate, which has already pre-determined its president when the 17th Legislature convenes in January 2010.

The 17th House of Representatives will have nine Republicans, seven Covenant Party members, and four independents.

It only takes 11 members for one political party to have the majority in the 20-member House.

"The magic number is 11. It now de-

See SPEAKER on Page 4

2 losing Rota candidates sue, seek recount

RELATED NEWS

- CEC opts for manual counting of runoff votes. **PAGE 7**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two losing independent candidates for the House of Representatives and mayoral races on Rota have challenged the election results in court and want a recount of the votes.

Ross Hugh Songao Manglona sued his lone rival in the election, Teresita Apatang Santos, who was elected to a House seat as an independent bet, and the two winners in the Senate seat for Rota—Jovita Maratita Taimanao and Juan Manglona Ayuyu, both in-

See 2 LOSING on Page 4

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Local

Six outstanding MHS employees named

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School named six individuals as this year's outstanding personnel who will vie for the Public School System's islandwide search for educational awardees this month.

Principal Karen Borja, along with all her employees, approved the selection of Maria Ornes, Jordan Bocago, Tita Gabredo, Rosalie Dela Cruz, Cherlyn Cabrera, and Illuminada Bermudes as this year's recipients of the Teacher of the Year, Teacher Aide, Support Staff, Counselor, and School Administrator of the Year awards respectively.

Ornes, who was chosen from about 70 classroom teachers, bagged the school's Teacher of the Year honor for the first time after demonstrating dedication and commitment to her profession.

This is her fourth year at MHS teaching Physical Science to freshmen. Prior to this assignment, Ornes worked for two years as a Language Arts teacher at Hopwood Junior High School.

"I feel honored," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Ornes said she loves teaching because it allows her to make difference in an individual's life. "I feel I can make a difference in the lives of my students and, as I keep going to school every day, I learn from my students too," she said.

Principal Borja described Ornes as a true mentor and a role model.

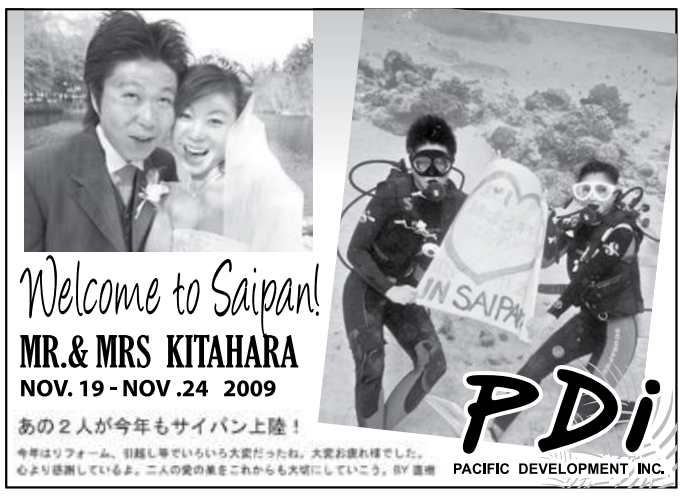
"She is an excellent teacher, providing positive learning environment for students to succeed. She is exceptional in her instructional organization and development of her lessons, incorporating activities for all types of learners," said Borja, adding that Ornes has no difficulty in meeting the standards and benchmarks as outlined by the school system.

Borja also lauded the performance of Jordan Bocago, the school's Teacher Aide of the Year. A teacher aide for the special education program for over five years, Bocago consistently demonstrates a high level of performance by providing services to the students with severe disabilities. As a one-on-

See SIX on Next Page

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Education Day nominees from Marianas High School. From left to right: Support Staff of the Year Rose Dela Cruz, Administrator of the Year Lumi Bermudes, Teacher Aide of the Year Jordan Bocago, Counselor of the Year Cherlyn Cabrera, Teacher of the Year Maria Ornes, and Support Staff of the Year Tita T. Gabredo.



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Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission
Special Business Meeting
5:00 p.m. Friday November 20, 2009
Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office
Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan.

Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday November 20, 2009 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda can be found on the Chamber website under Public Utilities.

Agenda

1. **Call to order – quorum**
2. **Approval of minutes of September 3, 2009 meeting**
3. **Docket 09-1: CUC Electric Division:**
   - Renewable Portfolio Standards Study
   - LEAC rate [April – September 2010]:
     - Minimum filing requirements
     - CUC filing
     - Georgetown report
   - CDA agreement order compliance
4. **Docket 09-2: CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions:**
   - Hearing examiner report and proposed order re FY10 rate relief and interim financial plan
5. **Telecommunications:**
   - Administrative order – procedure for arbitration of interconnection disputes.
6. **Administrative business:**
   - Ratification of October 8, 2009 Administrative Order
   - FY09 Operational Report – 4 CMC § 8408
   - FY09 Accounting Report – 4 CMC § 8422[d]
   - Administrator, office and website
   - Assessment order for FY10 administrative expense budget
7. **Other business**

SIX

From Page 2

one aide, Bocago has shown compassion and respect for his students even in the most challenging situations.

Saipan Tribune learned that Bocago was also honored for his exceptional attendance record.

The Support Staff of the Year award, meantime, was conferred on Tita Gabredo from the administration office and Rosalie Dela Cruz from the maintenance department.

Gabredo has been with MHS for almost five years now and is responsible for timekeeping and payroll, scheduling appointments, filing both manually and electronic, and providing assistance to all students.

For her, the recognition is an acknowledgment of her hard work. "I am very happy that I was chosen for this honor," she said, assuring that she will continue to perform her best for students.

Borja also recognized the performance of Dela Cruz, saying what sets Dela Cruz apart is the pride she takes in her job. "With a positive attitude, she has gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide additional services."

Counselor, Administrator of the Year awardees

Borja also lauded the commitment shown by Cherlyn Cabrera, the school's Counselor of the Year awardee.

For over four years, Cabrera went beyond the call of duty to mentor new teachers and counselors, to assist with school activities, to be a member of the school's accreditation team, and to fulfill the role of counseling department chair.

"What sets her apart from the others is her ability to listen. She has terrific rapport with her students, and they feel comfortable to be open with her and share their true concerns. This is key to being a great counselor," Borja said.

Named as this school's Administrator of the Year was Illuminada Bermudes, the assistant principal for Student Services and Administration.

Borja said Bermudes is exceptional in carrying out the policies of PSS and the BOE.

As the school's disciplinarian, she listens carefully, weighs all information, and disciplines in a fair and equitable manner.

Bermudes is responsible for the school facility and has devised schedules not only to perform repairs, but to do preventive maintenance of buildings and equipment.

Additionally, she is responsible for all safety procedures and evacuation plans and becomes the school's incident commander in the event of an emergency.

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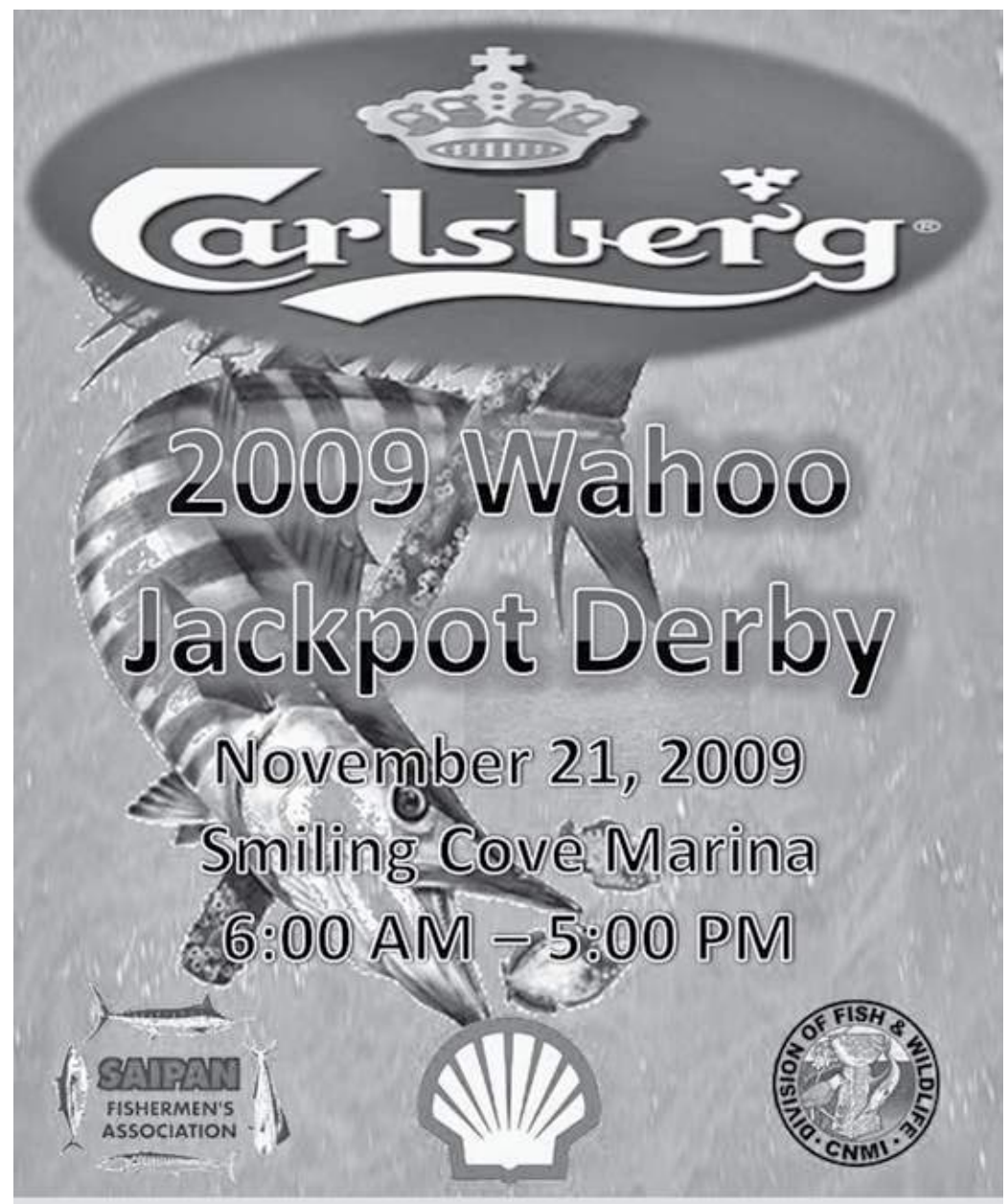

For more information, please contact Frank Tudela at (670) 664-3200/01 or via e-mail at ftudela@mymarianas.com

2 LOSING

From Page 1

dependents.

In a separate lawsuit, Rota Rep. Victor Borja Hocog, an independent candidate for mayor of Rota, sued the winning candidate, Melchor Atalig Mendiola, an independent.

Lawyer Michael W. Dotts is representing both Manglona and Hocog.

Manglona asked the Superior Court to order a recount of all votes for the office of House representative and senator in the presence of all political parties.

Upon the recount, he wants the court to rule that a candidate other than the one originally declared the winner as having the largest number of legal votes for senator or representative from Rota.

Manglona asked the court to declare that such candidate is elected, and instruct the Commonwealth Election Commission to issue a certificate of election to him.

Hocog, on the other hand, asked the court to order a recount of all absentee votes for the Office of Mayor in the presence of all parties.

If it is determined that he had the largest number of legal votes for the mayor, Hocog wants the court to declare him the elected mayor of Rota. The lawmaker said the court should then direct the Election Commission to issue a certificate of election to him.

The Election Commission declared Santos the winning candidate for the House seat and Taimanao and Ayuyu the winning candidates for Senate seats.

In the Nov. 7, 2009, election, Dotts said, all votes for senators and representative cast at Rota polling stations were counted on Rota.

However, Dotts said, the votes cast for Rota senator and representative by absentee ballot were collected on Rota but were shipped to Saipan and were counted on Saipan. The lawyer pointed out that there was no preliminary counting, tabulation, or publication of these votes on Rota as required by the law.

"The absentee ballots were therefore not counted in accordance with law," Dotts said.

Furthermore, he said, the votes cast for Rota senator and representative were not placed on "local ballots," separate from any contest decided by voters from more than one senatorial district.

He said the Election Commission counted a substantial number of votes for Rota senator and representative as undervotes.

These were, in fact, not undervotes, Dotts said, "but rather were votes on which the intent of the voter could be clearly discerned, but which were not counted by the vote-counting machine."

Dotts said the commission, in the conduct of the election and arithmetical tabulation of votes, "made errors sufficient to change the final result of the election as to the person who has been declared elected, which is grounds for an election contest."

In Hocog's case, according to the election results certified by the Election Commission, he received 362 votes cast in polling stations and 136 votes cast via absentee ballot, for a total of 498 votes.

According to the election results certified by the commission, Mendiola received 344 votes cast in polling stations and 203 votes cast by absentee ballot, for a total of 547 votes.

Accordingly, the Commission declared Mendiola the winning candidate.

In the election, Dotts said, all votes cast for the office of mayor of Rota at polling stations were counted on Rota.

However, the lawyer noted, the votes cast for mayor of Rota by absentee ballot were collected on Rota, but were then shipped to Saipan, and counted on Saipan. "The absentee ballots were therefore not counted in accordance with law," he said.

"But for the improperly counted absentee ballots, plaintiff, rather than defendant, would have received the highest number of votes for the office of mayor of Rota," Dotts said.

Furthermore, Dotts said, the absentee votes cast for mayor of Rota were not placed on "local ballots," separate from any contest decided by voters from more than one senatorial district, as required by the law.

SPEAKER

From Page 1

pends on who the independents want," said Rep. Ray A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan).

He said even though there are more Republicans than Covenant members, the four independents "seem" to align themselves with the administration's party.

The Republicans would only need two from the four independents to retain control of the House, whose current speaker, Arnold I. Palacios, is running for lieutenant governor.

House Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), who is expected to be the Republicans' choice for speaker in the 17th Legislature, said yesterday the party will have a caucus soon to formally name their choice for speaker.

"After the caucus, we will meet with the independents. The independents need to know who is going to represent the Republican Party to help them decide who to support," Deleon Guerrero said.

Should the four independents support the Covenant Party, then the party will regain control of the House.

One of the four independent lawmakers, Rep.-elect George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), said yesterday that, while he supports Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party in the Nov. 23 gubernatorial runoff election, it does not necessarily mean he will support the party's candidate for the speaker's post.

"Right now, I haven't decided yet who to support for the speaker's position. We're supporting Fitial's candidacy, but the speaker position is an entirely separate issue. We have not supported any party yet as far as that position is concerned," Camacho said.

Three other independents—re-elected Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Rep.-elect Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and Rep.-elect Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota)—could not be reached for comment.

The nine Republicans in the 17th House include incumbents Reps. Joseph Deleon Guerrero, Diego T. Benavente, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Ray N. Yumul, and Francisco S. Dela Cruz, as well as newcomers Antonio P. Sablan, Joseph M. Palacios, Eliceo D. Cabrera, and Trenton Brian Conner.

The seven Covenant members include former governor Froilan C. Tenorio, re-elected Rep. Raymond Palacios, Rafael S. Demapan, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez, Sylvestre I. Iguel, and Ramon S. Basa.

Next Senate president

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) earlier said that Sen. Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) will be the next Senate president when the 17th Legislature convenes in January 2010.

Reyes, who got re-elected on Nov. 7, said he's stepping down to honor a gentlemen's agreement to rotate the presidency by island, and this started when Sen. Felix Mendiola (Cov-Tinian) became Senate president.

Manglona, from Rota, was Senate president in previous Legislatures until he was succeeded by Mendiola, from Tinian, and then by Reyes, who is from Saipan.

Manglona said Reyes's endorsement "means a lot" to him, and hopes that other senators will also support him.

Five of the nine members of the incoming Senate are Republicans; two are Independents; one Covenant; and one Democrat.

MILITARY

From Page 1

yesterday heard from experts how to take advantage of the opportunities that come with the $15-billion, multi-year military buildup in Guam.

Some 10,000 additional workers are also needed to build facilities in Guam, maximizing U.S. or local labor capabilities.

While most construction projects will be in Guam, there are opportunities for the CNMI government and private businesses, mainly the existing land leases on Tinian and the needed small arms training ranges also on Tinian for the initial buildup phase.

Opportunities for the CNMI also include providing logistical support services, public works, construction and environmental services, and hosting military personnel and their families for rest and recreation.

Contractors should also be on the lookout for other services needed by military personnel as well as the workers involving food supply, or as simple as haircut services.

"The ramp up is clear. The dollars are coming," said Capt. Peter S. Lynch, commanding officer of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas.

Lynch was among the resource speakers in yesterday's Guam/CNMI Military Contracting Opportunities Symposium at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Construction will start in 2010. Major construction projects in Guam in Fiscal Year 2010 alone are expected to reach $1.1 billion, double the figure in FY 2009, he said.

Of this amount, some $674 million will be for projects directly associated with the relocation of 8,000 Marines, as well as their families, from Okinawa to Guam.

Another $259 million will be for a hospital, while the other $174 million will be for other related projects.

Lynch cited other near-term opportunities in FYs 2010 and 2011, depending on funding and budget. These include an estimated $10 million maintenance dredging of the Apra Harbor, a $5 million to $10 million Apra Harbor seawall repairs, and airfield repairs at Andersen Air Force base worth $10 million to $15 million.

Evaluation criteria

Experts recommend CNMI contractors to either partner with established firms now bidding or will bid for military projects or start building their own capacity.

Lynch said contractors will be evaluated based on past performance, workforce housing and logistics, and small business utilization.

"The workforce housing and logistics such as providing medical services, food, dining, housing, safety, security and transportation can make or break [a contractor]," he said.

Roy Tsutsui, assistant defense representative for the Joint Region Marianas, said the opportunities for the CNMI include existing leased land.

On Tinian, for example, 58 percent of the land is leased by the U.S. military, while 100 percent of land on Farallon de Medinilla and near shore waters is used for military training.

On Saipan, 127 acres of land are used for the American Memorial Park and the Army Reserve compound.

He said there will be a need for training ranges on Tinian for the initial buildup phase.

Tsutsui also noted the creation of a CNMI Military Integration Management Committee to coordinate efforts for taking advantage of the opportunities brought by the buildup.

Getting started

Albert Sampson, small business advisor for NAVFAC Marianas, said companies that provide quality work for construction and services have the edge.

He said working with the U.S. Navy, for example, requires that a contractor is computer or electronically savvy to be able to register their company online.

"Your company should be registered with the Central Contractor Registration (www.bpn.gov). It's not enough that you are registered. Tell us what you do, and update your profile," Sampson told the symposium participants.

To get started, contractors need to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System, and register with the Central Contractor Registration.

Carl Peterson, a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce's board of directors, said "the CNMI has great opportunity" and it has to "think of possibilities."

"We want to do this together. There's always a possibility of fabrication in the CNMI, or build interiors of houses or buildings here, put them in a box, and then ship them to Guam if that's economically sound. That remains a possibility," he told he crowd.

Peterson also gave a rundown of myths surrounding the military buildup, including one that says the military will pay for everything, or that the buildup will destroy the islands' culture, or that the military will increase the crime rate in Guam.

Other resource speakers in the morning session included Capt. Michael Uva, supply officer at Fleet Industrial Supply Center, and Vera Topasna, program manager at the Procurement Technical Assistance Center Overview.

'Anxiety'

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in his opening remarks, said that while the military buildup has caused a great deal of excitement and optimism in the Marianas, it has also caused anxiety and uncertainty about the "unknowns" associated with the troop relocation.

Top U.S. Department of Defense officials have visited the CNMI and Guam in the past months.

"Although the dialogue between the Department of Defense and regional leaders has been important, the most critical communication is with the community. It is with this in mind that the CNMI requested a symposium of this magnitude to be presented by the Department of Defense," he said.

Inos also pitched the CNMI's written strategic plan, to leverage the islands' infrastructure, human resources, and natural resources "to maximize the opportunities specific to the CNMI community."

The government awarded a $160,000 contract to a private consulting firm that came up with a document on what the CNMI could offer the U.S. Department of Defense as the region prepares for the military buildup.

The CNMI, being a U.S. territory and its capital island of Saipan only 120 miles from Guam, can provide alternate airport and seaport facilities that could be used to enhance training opportunities for deployment training, and operations and maintenance logistics function, the document said.

'Optimism'

Gregorio Q. Castro, general manager of SSFM International-Saipan Office, said the symposium allowed contractors "to see what's on the horizon" in connection with the military buildup, "and how much of economic impact it will have on us here in the CNMI."

"As an engineering firm and construction management firm, SSFM wants to link up with major firms in order for us to get projects. We are working on linking up with them," Castro said in an interview.

Castro was one of the estimated 200 symposium participants mostly from private companies representing a wide range of industries—engineering, architecture, construction services and supply, shipping, landscaping, human resources, automotive, and food catering services, among other things.

Castro, who is a Tinian resident, also expressed optimism that the need for small arms training ranges on Tinian will help boost the island's economy.

More than this, he said, Tinian's casino industry will provide a good place for military personnel and their families for rest and recreation.

"I believe they will not stay in Guam or Saipan for vacation where there will be lots of people. They will visit Tinian which is a quieter place," he said.

Guam was selected for the military buildup because of its strategic location. Its location enhances military force flexibility, deterrence value, freedom of action, prompt global action, regional engagement and crisis response, said Tsutsui in his presentation.

The afternoon session included presentations by CNMI Commerce Secretary Michael Ada on the CNMI Military Integration Committee, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce incoming president Doug Brennan and incoming vice president Jim Arenovski on what the CNMI can offer the military and prime contractors.

Environmental impact statement

Lynch, in his presentation, said the draft Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, of the Guam military buildup will be released later this week, for public comment.

The draft EIS consists of almost 4,000 pages and the appendices, another 4,000 pages.

Lynch said in January 2010, public meetings will be held on the draft EIS. Five of these public meetings will be in Guam, one on Saipan, and one on Tinian.

An EIS provides details of the possible environmental impacts of a federal action as required by the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act.

OAG delegates power to issue 'umbrella permits'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham on Tuesday delegated authority to the secretaries of the Labor and Commerce departments, and the director of the Immigration Division in the issuance of the two-year transition conditional permits or "umbrella permits."

Buckingham gave the Labor secretary the authority to issue and revoke the two-year "umbrella permits" to foreign workers, including those with pending local or federal cases.

To the Commerce secretary he delegated the authority to issue and revoke "umbrella permits" to foreign students, foreign investors, foreign business permit holders, and foreign retiree investors.

The Immigration director was delegated the authority until Nov. 27, 2009, at 11:59pm, to issue two-year "umbrella permits" to overstayers on a case-by-case basis for humanitarian reasons.

Buckingham said all "umbrella permits" given out before this delegation of authority shall be grandfathered.

Rep. Tina Sablan praised Buckingham for providing clarification on the issuance of the "umbrella permits" through this delegation of authority.

Sablan also praised Buckingham's staff, members of the Immigration Protocol Task Force, and the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for reviewing the legal issues and questions regarding the "umbrella permit" program.

She also commended the numerous worker organizations and advocates who were instrumental in bringing these and other issues to light, and who urged for their resolution.

Sablan said Federal Ombudswoman Pamela Brown has advised that no worker should go to Labor for "umbrella permits" without a copy of Buckingham's delegation attached.

"The Office of the Ombudsman will be open this weekend to assist workers. Tagalog and Sri Lankan speakers may call 322-8034 or 322-8038 or ask for Cris or Glen. Mandarin, Cantonese, or Bangladeshi speakers may call 322-8033 or 322-8037 and ask for Li or Ripon," she said.

Sablan cited that at a recent public forum on the "umbrella permit" program, one common and pressing question asked by attendees was about Labor's authority to issue such permits, rather than Immigration.

"Another common question was whether such permits would be recognized by the federal government as valid CNMI immigration permits, if the permits were not actually being issued by the Division of Immigration," she said.

The lawmaker noted that some of the attorneys on the panel had agreed that the legitimacy of the "umbrella permits" might be questioned if there was no clear recognition of their legitimacy by the Office of the Attorney General and Division of Immigration.

Labor special counsel Deanne Siemer said yesterday that Buckingham's delegation is a formality that simply records a permissive grant of authority that does not affect the authority that Labor and Commerce already have.

"The principal purpose of the delegation is so that the Labor Department can assist the Immigration Division with permits for immediate relatives in order to get those permits issued promptly," Siemer said.

Immigration, she said, lacks the staff and administrative resources to take of this task by itself.

Siemer said no one needs to attach a copy of the delegation to anything submitted to Labor or Commerce.

"The umbrella permit process is nearly completed. Almost all of the permits have been issued, and all permits are based on full legal authority. The federal agencies have confirmed that they will honor all Labor Department and Commerce Department umbrella permits," she added.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, December 03, 2009 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Election of Officers – ZB Reg. 165-301.030 (a)

C. Reports
1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

D. Public Comments

E. Permits/ Applications/ Rezones: review and decide.
1. Map 23, from VR to VC: TR# 22559-1, -2, -3-1, -3-R1, -4; 21712NEW-R1, -1 (As Terlaje)
2. Map 26, from VR to VC: Lot# 045 I 03; 022 K 02, 04, 05, 06; part of public land 57-3

F. Old Business. None.

G. New Business.
1. Proposed amendments to Saipan Zoning Law of 2008
   a. Proposed amendment to allow for Conditional Commercial uses in VR zones (presentation; no action)
   b. Update on proposed amendments to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law (Presentation; no action)

H. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

I. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).
/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

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Case against suspect in armed robbery dismissed

The Superior Court has dismissed the case against an ex-convict who was tagged as among two men who staged a daylight robbery at a pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa that injured two persons.

Quitano

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos on Tuesday dismissed the case of Fernando E. Quitano without prejudice upon the CNMI government's motion. Dismissal without prejudice means the prosecution can refile the case in the future.

Assistant attorney general George Hasselback represented the government at the hearing. Attorney Robert Torres served as counsel for Quitano.

Saipan Tribune learned that Hasselback moved to dismiss the case because the officer in charge, Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero, is in jail after the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested him for allegedly extorting money from unlicensed taxi drivers.

A witness said Quitano was smiling when he emerged from the courtroom after the dismissal of his case.

It is not clear yet whether the FBI will step into the investigation of the armed robbery case.

Police recently arrested the 25-year-old Quitano on charges of attempted murder, armed robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and contempt of court.

Quitano was tagged as the second suspect in the robbery at the 24 Hours Pawnshop, formerly called the Pink House Pawnshop, that occurred last Oct. 23.

Detective Leon Guerrero stated in his report that the footage of a surveillance camera at the pawnshop helped investigators identify Quitano.

Leon Guerrero said Quitano's accomplice, Marlon Martin, hit the cashier's booth's door with a sledgehammer, then Quitano joined in by smashing the door with a crowbar. The two then allegedly attacked two persons in the pawnshop with their weapons.

Leon Guerrero said Quitano came out from the booth carrying the crowbar, machete, and bag.

The detective said the two suspects ran away, but Martin was later arrested when witnesses and one victim chased him.

Leon Guerrero said Quitano was not arrested because he got into a getaway car that was parked across the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa.

In December 2003, police arrested Quitano in connection with an armed robbery at Ling Lin Store in Chalan Kanoa on Oct. 31, 2003. Two other men were arrested.

In April 2007, police picked up Quitano and three other men a few days after they reportedly robbed the Smile Poker in Chalan Kanoa. A security guard was injured in that incident. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man in fake money case gets time served sentence

The federal court imposed yesterday a sentence of time already served in jail on a man who was involved in passing fake money to some stores on Saipan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson placed Nestor C. Taitano on three years of supervised release.

During the probation, Taitano will be required to perform 300 hours of community work service and undergo drug treatment program.

The judge ordered the defendant to pay $150 restitution to the victims—$50 each to Nang Ocha Store, Tapo Shopping Fashion, and Fashion Avenue—and to pay $400 in special assessment fee to the U.S. government.

Taitano pleaded guilty in May to two counts of conspiracy and two counts of passing counterfeit obligations.

He was arrested in February, together with Kisha Lyn Masga King, and Lucas Taitano Manglona for circulating fake money. The object of the conspiracy was to obtain items and real U.S. currency as change from transactions.

Taitano signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

According to the plea agreement, on Jan. 12, 2009, King bought items at the Tapo Fashion store with a $50 bill she knew to be counterfeit, pursuant to an agreement with Taitano.

The understanding was that Taitano would give King the fake $50 and she would keep the item she purchased and return the change from the purchase to Taitano.

On the same day, with the same agreement with Taitano, King bought items at the Fashion Avenue store with a fake $50 bill and gasoline at a Koblerville Shell Station using a fake $50 bill.

King pleaded guilty to the same charges last February. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Hafa Adai:

One of the most important questions every voter must ask themselves is,

"Am I better off today than I was 4 years ago?"

- Our economy is on the edge of bankruptcy
- Our Public Health System is dangerously deficient
- Our Retirement Fund is on the brink of bankruptcy
- Government Employee morale is in disarray
- The educational opportunities for our children get dimmer and dimmer
- Our relationship with the federal government is at an all-time low

In short, the CNMI government is BROKEN!

I cannot in good conscience recommend the status quo

PLEASE VOTE FOR

Heinz & Arnold

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Tirow, Salamat Po and Thank You

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Former Lt. Governor
Former Senate President
Former Director of Commerce

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CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP: RFP10-DCCA-016

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 07, 2009 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **NOVEMBER 23, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE NAP OFFICE, QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP IS DUE NO LATER THAN **NOVEMBER 25, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
November 18, 2009

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain **Writ of Execution on Personal Property** by the **CNMI Superior Court in Civil Action No. 04-0588C**, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), **together with assistance of the CNMI Department of Public Safety**, shall auction off to the highest bidder **assets of Westpac Freight including furniture, fixtures, trucks and various other items.**

An inventory listing may be obtained at CDA Office, Gualo Rai or on our website at www.cda.gov.mp.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **Westpac Freight Parking Lot, Lower Base, Saipan on Friday, November 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.**;
4. Terms of the sale are cash, certified check, or credit card (Visa & Mastercard); and
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from site. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:30 p.m. Friday, November 20, 2009. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Loan Manager, CDA at 234-7145 for further information or to inspect the items. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2009

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Veterans' Clinic to treat stresses of war

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After being stalled for nearly a decade, the CNMI Veterans Clinic will finally open its doors on Saipan next month.

The establishment of the clinic, which was first set in motion early 2000, was hampered by delays caused by, among others, infrastructural and land/location issues.

Service members and veterans needing medical attention or health care services were forced to either go to the Commonwealth Health Center or other off-island facilities.

The Commonwealth has close to 2,000 veterans and active service members.

"The long wait is over…for our veterans. We will finally see it open in the next couple of weeks," said Ruth Coleman, Veterans Affairs executive officer, in an interview Tuesday.

She said the Veterans Clinic will be at Dr. Norma Ada's clinic, the Medical Associates in the Pacific, which has signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

VA, Coleman said, has already hired a psychologist that will now be stationed at the clinic.

"Any services that our veterans would need would be addressed by the clinic and it's up to Dr. Ada if there's a need to place more staff in the facility," Coleman said.

In case of hospitalization, patients will still be referred to the CHC and other hospitals outside the Commonwealth where needed services are immediately available. All expenses will be shouldered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, she added.

Coleman said the clinic may expand to a community-based facility or hospital depending on the growth in the number of veterans on island.

CEC opts for manual counting of runoff votes

Monday a non-working holiday

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board finalized and laid out yesterday the procedures for the runoff election on Monday—from the counting and tabulating process to candidates' campaigns and certification of ballots.

Board chair Frances M. Sablan said that due to the inadequate time to prepare for the runoff—which will be a first in the CNMI—the board has opted to implement a manual counting of votes on the evening of Nov. 23.

The same process was enforced during the election for the CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress, which Gregorio Kilili Sablan won by a wide margin.

Although the commission has six optical scanners at present, of which four are new, Sablan said the new equipment are designed to count only a small scale of ballots such as for precinct levels.

The two older machines are the only ones capable of counting votes on a larger scale, or more than 3,000 votes, according to Sablan. The new machines, however, will still be used for the preliminary counting.

Despite the non-computerized system in the runoff, Sablan is optimistic the commission will experience no delays.

She said commissioners will start tabulating and counting at 7pm to meet the 12 midnight completion of the activity.

In yesterday's meeting, the commissioners agreed to seek the Legislature's support for computerized counting in future elections. To make this happen, CEC must acquire 13 scanners—one unit for every polling station.

With only two "old" machines that can do the "spontaneous" counting, Sablan said CEC could do it if the runoff is held at a later date.

"We could do it if we have the runoff later…because it takes time to order the chips [for the machines]. It goes through a process," she said.

Pursuant to law, CEC must hold the runoff election two weeks after the general election, or on Nov. 23. The general election was held on Nov. 7.

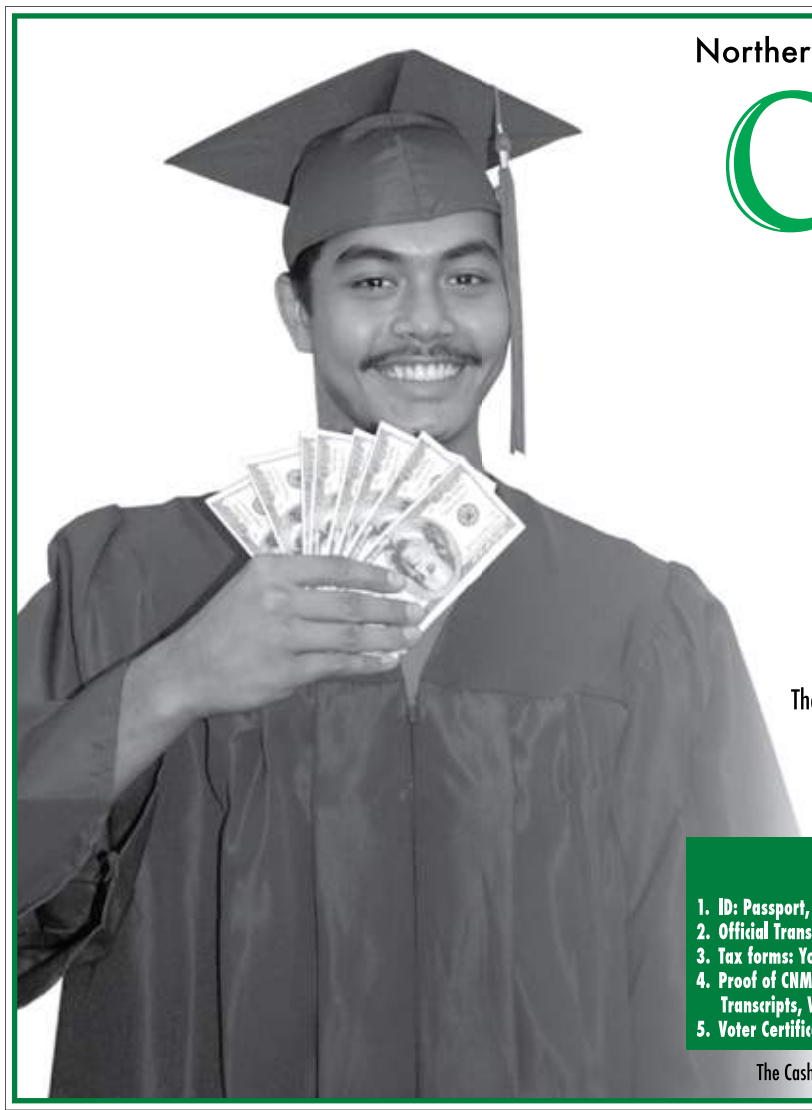
Sablan also clarified that all absentee ballots that are received until Monday will be counted in the evening. The rest of the absentee ballots will be counted on Dec. 7, provided these are postmarked on or before the Nov. 23 runoff. Certification of the votes will immediately follow.

Sablan emphasized that, under the law, if the difference in the number of votes obtained by the two candidates is five or less, the commission is mandated to do a recount. However, candidates still have the right to request a recount even if the difference is larger.

The board also affirmed its commitment to strictly enforce the 300-ft radius from polling places.

The two gubernatorial bets—Covenant Party's Ben and Eloy and the GOP's Heinz and Arnold—are permitted to campaign until Sunday.

The alcohol ban during Election Day will be in effect on Monday, which will be a non-working holiday.



Northern Marianas College and the College Access Challenge Project

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Saturday, November 21, 2009, at NMC's Building A
The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am to 3pm.

Attending the free workshop also qualifies you for a waiver of NMC's application fee and placement test fees for the Fall 2009 semester (a savings of up to $75!).
The workshop is open to both new and ongoing students.

Although not required for entry into the workshop, please bring in the following documents to help you complete the scholarship forms at the workshop:
1. ID: Passport, Birth Certificate, or Green Card
2. Official Transcript from high school (at least three official copies)
3. Tax forms: Your OR your parents' signed 2008 1040 form (2008 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes)
4. Proof of CNMI residency for 2007 and 2008 (For Example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voter's Certification, etc.)
5. Voter Certification (to show you voted in last election – Contact Election Commission for more information) – SHEFA Requirement

The Cash for College Workshop is made possible through the financial support of the U.S. DOE, College Access Challenge Grant Program.

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Nomination season opens for ESGR award

ARLINGTON, Va.—The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, has announced the opening of the nomination season for the 2010 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support of military employees above the federal law requirements.

Nominations can be made at www.FreedomAward.mil and will be accepted until Jan. 18, 2010.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

The 2010 recipients will be announced in the spring and honored in Washington, D.C. at the 15th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony on Sept. 23, 2010.

Recipients of the 2009 Freedom Award met privately with President Barack Obama and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Dr. Jill Biden, Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Dennis McCarthy presented the awards at a ceremony attended by members of Congress and senior government and military officials.

Earlier this year, two of Guam-CNMI's nominations, Alpha Insurers and NAVFAC Marianas, made it to the top 15 and 131 respectively out of over 3,200 nominations nationwide.

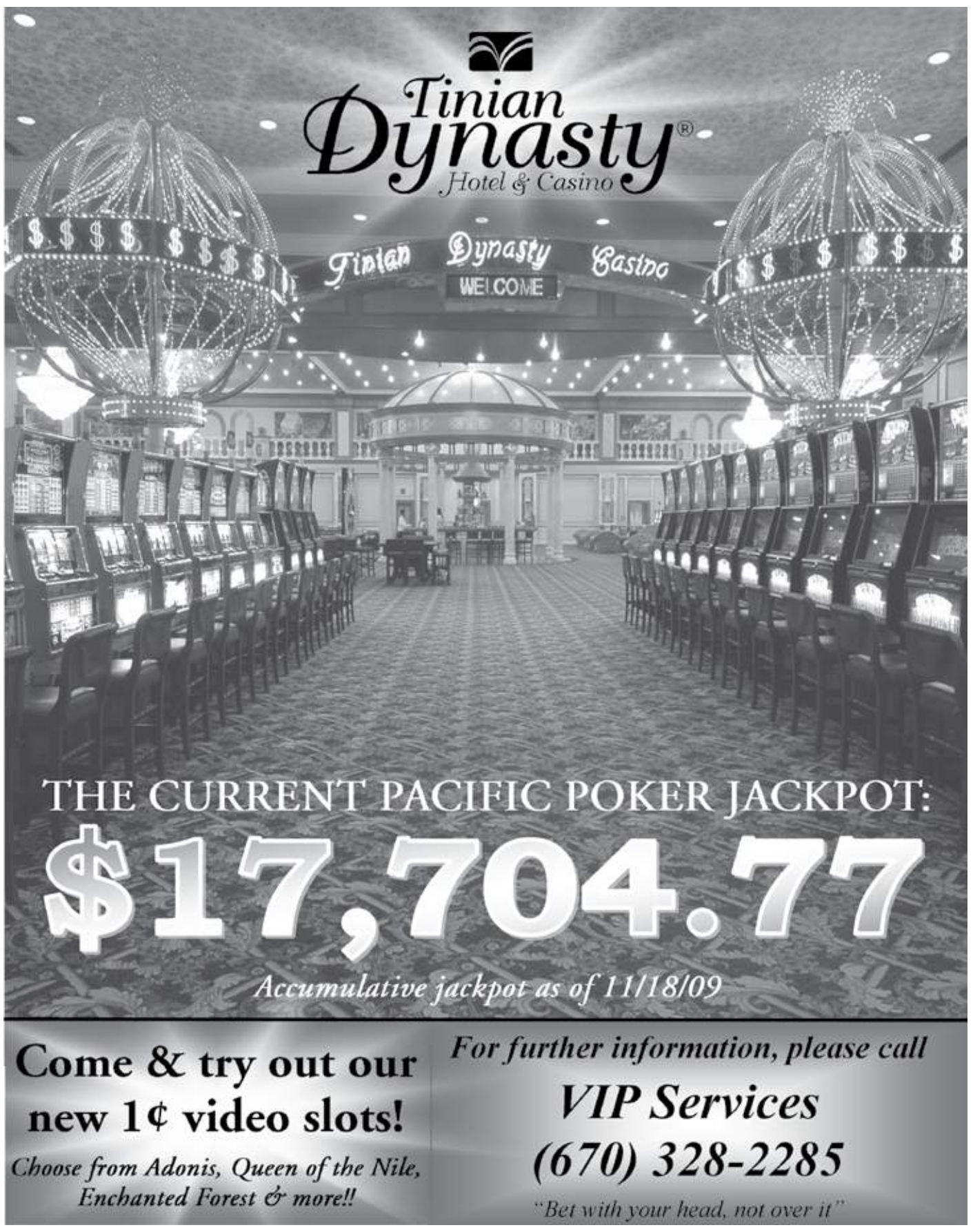
ON THE NET
FreedomAward.mil

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of the National Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. Past recipients of the Freedom Award have provided significant support including full salary, continuation of benefits, care packages and family assistance to employees fulfilling their military obligation.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. "There is much excitement surrounding the 15th anniversary of the Freedom Award," noted ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee chair Benny Paulino, "and we're enthusiastic to begin selection of the 2010 recipients from amongst all of the heartfelt nominations that will be submitted by our proud citizen warriors."

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Capt. Josephine Blas, ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee Public Affairs Director, at 671-735-0456. ***(ESGR)***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Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 19, 1999

U.S. Inspector General asked to probe SBDC
Saying that ulterior motive was behind a proposal seeking to remove the Small Business Development Center under the wings of the Northern Marianas College, Rep. Oscar M. Babauta yesterday said he would seek a probe by the U.S. Inspector General into the planned transfer of the SBDC to the Commonwealth Development Authority. The House Commerce and Tourism Committee chairman questioned the integrity of the agency's ex-director Jack Peters in pressing for the closure of NMC-SBDC as he noted that the move may have been motivated by a "personal vendetta" against college officials. Backing up accusations leveled against Peters by Board of Regent Chairman Ramon A. Villagomez, Babauta disclosed that he rejected his attempt to corner a $10,000 contract involving a project being administered by NMC-SBDC due to possible duplication of work.

Transfer would ensure proper use of funds
Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chairman John S. Tenorio yesterday said he is seeking control of the Small Business Development Center from the Northern Marianas College to make sure that federal grants are properly handled. CDA's concern over the local SBDC stemmed from the recent findings of an investigation that the funds given to the center is not efficiently managed by the College. Instead of losing the federal grant as much as $200,000 a year, Tenorio said, he would rather takeover management of SBDC from NMC. The Association of Small Business Development Center National Certification Committee, through James King, had suggested that immediate steps be taken so that NMC-SBDC retains federal funding from the entire Pacific Islands SBDC Network.

Nov. 19, 2001

Republicans rule 13th House
The CNMI Commission on Election officially certified the next set of Commonwealth leaders Saturday, after completing the tabulation of absentee ballots for the November 3 polls. Only 716 of the 1,026 absentee ballots mailed out by the Commission on Election were sent back by off-island CNMI voters. But COE Executive Director Greg Sablan said only 635 ballots were considered valid. The valid ballots represent about 61.8 percent of the total number of absentee ballots dispatched by the election commission. Sablan said the ballots were thoroughly reviewed and inspected prior to the official tabulation.

Inter-agency task force formed vs suicide
An inter-agency task force has pooled efforts to curb the high incidence of teenage deaths in the Northern Marianas. Dr. Anthony Bottone, a member of the task force, said the rising number of suicide deaths may be curbed by attending to the problems of those who suffer from depression, a common cause of such phenomenon. "Don't be afraid to ask your child," said the doctor, advising parents to be open to their kids, especially during adolescence. "Is your child drinking?" Bottone said that in some incidents, the victims are intoxicated from alcohol.

Nov. 19, 2002

CHC lacks transport unit for critically ill infants
For about a year now, the Commonwealth Health Center has been lacking a special equipment to transport critically ill infants who need urgent offshore medical attention. Denyse Calderwood, CHC Natal Intensive Care Unit chief nurse, said yesterday there has not been enough funding for the purchase and certification of the equipment, called Infant Transport System, which is used to transport infant-patients who are on life support machines. CHC said the machine itself costs about $75,000 but getting it certified needs an additional $100,000.

Business as usual for referral patients
Some 13 CNMI patients referred to Honolulu for medical treatment continue to be entertained by various health providers, said Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero, who confirmed this in a meeting with CNMI Liaison officials in Hawaii last Friday. The Saipan senator, who was there to attend other meetings, made it a point to stop by the Liaison Office located at the Hurst Building, Ala Moana Boulevard, to check up on the status of the offshore patients, in the wake of the funding woes that has recently threatened healthcare services to government-insured patients. "The 13 patients over there are being entertained by the hospitals. They got accepted because they are already there. So they are not being denied medical treatment," Guerrero said.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

Dancing with the dragon

On his first official visit to Asia, President Obama has sought to reassure China that the United States does not want to contain its rise, but rather welcomes "a strong and prosperous ... member of the community of nations." He also has said that world power status brings with it the responsibility of engagement in international affairs, "a burden of leadership that both our countries now carry." Such talk raises the hackles of conservatives at home who see global power as a zero-sum game and believe Obama is ceding too much to China.

We disagree. The United States can acknowledge China's economic and political clout in a multipolar world without sacrificing its own leadership role in the region. The truth is that few issues these days, from Iranian and North Korean nuclear ambitions to climate change and global economic recovery, can be addressed successfully without the participation of China.

The United States and China have points of contention and common interests, particularly regarding the economy. China is holding about $800 billion in U.S. debt, and its authoritarian state capitalism is likely to produce 8 percent growth in 2009, while the liberal democratic U.S. economy will be lucky to grow by 1 percent. As a result, commentators have made the case that Obama is in no position to lecture Beijing about its overvalued currency, let alone its checkered human rights record. Setting aside for a moment the fact that the communist leadership has rarely responded to finger-wagging, the economic relationship is more nuanced than that. China questions the cost of U.S. health care reform and is cautioning the United States as never before about the soaring budget deficit and weak dollar, not only because it is feeling its economic oats but because it fears for the value of its U.S. investments. When China protests U.S. protectionism, that is because its own growth depends on exports to the West and, therefore, so does its social peace. For better and worse, the two economies are interdependent, and that reinforces U.S. power.

Obama has spoken out selectively on human rights issues so far on the trip. He has avoided mentioning the mistreatment of Tibetans or the status of Taiwan, which we hope he will address in his private meeting with President Hu Jintao today. At least he spoke forcefully against Internet censorship, telling Shanghai university students it is a "universal right" to have freedom of "expression and worship, or access to information and political participation." The U.S. and China surely will face many political, economic and possibly military challenges in the future. It would be best if they resolve them through a dialogue —one global power to another.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Monopoly

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

When Charles Darrow was unemployed during the Great Depression in 1934, he came up with a concept to allow people to step away from their bleak reality and enjoy a taste of the high life. He took his board game to Parker Brothers, but it was rejected. Undaunted, he made a deal with a printer to produce 5,000 sets, and then sold them to a Philadelphia department store. The game was a success, and when the news got back to Parker Brothers they negotiated a deal, and Monopoly became an instant hit and is still the world's number one board game with sales in 103 countries.

A monopoly is a single provider of a product or service that has no competition because there are no close substitutes. A monopoly is a good position to be in if you own the business, but not so good if you are a consumer of a product or service that is owned by a monopoly.

The idea for Darrow's game probably came from one of the most powerful monopolies that existed at the end of the 19th century. John D. Rockefeller gained control of nearly all the oil refineries in the U.S., along with control of other industries, as well as control at various levels of government with corrupt officials. He used a number of cutthroat techniques to achieve his end, such as undercutting the prices of competitors until he drove them out of business or they sold to Standard Oil, secretly buying competitors and having officials from those companies spy on other competitors, secretly buying or creating new oil-related companies such as pipelines and making them appear as independent operators, and using thugs to bully and physically threaten competitors who could not be convinced in other ways.

Samuel Dodd, a lawyer for Standard Oil, came up with the concept of the trust, which had stockholders in a group of companies transfer their shares to a single set of trustees that controlled all of the companies. In exchange, the stockholders received certificates entitling them to a specified share of the consolidated earnings of the jointly managed businesses. In effect, this allowed all the holdings of Standard Oil to function in unison as a highly disciplined monopoly. This gave greater influence and control and produced huge profits for the trust, because after the competition was eliminated, prices were hiked while service dropped.

The phenomenal "success" of Standard Oil prompted others to follow Rockefeller's business model, and trusts were established in industries such as railroads, coal, steel, sugar, tobacco, and meatpacking. The general public became aware and disgusted with the predatory practices of Rockefeller and other trusts, and this prompted the Sherman Antitrust Act in 1890 to regulate interstate commerce, a first measure to prohibit trusts.

Another negative aspect of monopolies is their tendency to limit innovation either by losing the motivation to innovate internally, or to limit innovation from existing or potential competitors because of the threat it could impose upon the monopoly. Innovation is regarded as the key to economic growth, and suppressing it will eventually produce a deleterious effect on the economy over time.

We have several businesses that act as monopolies on Saipan and therefore they charge prices that are artificially higher and provide services that are substantially lower than similar competing businesses in other parts of the world. For example, if you want cable TV, electricity, or local telephone service, where can you go? You have one choice.

Our phone line has not been working for over a week and when we called the local phone company they made empty promises to stop by and fix it. Even though we pay extra for the lines keeper service, it had no impact on their service. They claim they don't know where we live, even though a map was drawn when we moved to our present location. Will they reimburse us for one week's worth of defective service? No, because they're a monopoly and can charge whatever they want and provide any level of service they desire.

The same can be said for our sole utility provider and hospital. Unless and until there is competition, prices will remain high and service will be marginal. The discrepancy between what we experience and what's available in a free market society is readily apparent when one goes to the mainland or another country and experiences the speed of real broadband Internet service, or shops at stores that have real competitive prices.

Even though the game Monopoly is popular and allows one to experience a surge of power when properties are bought and sold, the real monopolies are debilitating and can stifle innovation, send prices higher, service lower, and keep the economy flat.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Historical oppression in the Marianas

First, I would like to apologize to Mr. Ramos (of Rota) for any confusion that may have been wrought by my previous letter regarding the issue of sovereignty in the Marianas. *That* question in the letter was not directed at or for Mr. Ramos, but rather to Mr. John Del Rosario Jr. as he is the frequent author of such verbiage.

Additionally, the letter was not meant to address any of the conditions suffered by indigenous peoples under rule by sovereign outside nations. But since Mr. Ramos brought this up as a shortcoming in the letter, I would like to offer a highly summarized overview by citing a few additional historical facts.

Prior to 1521, these islands were unknown and had no name in the outside world and the various indigenous tribes occupying them had no written history. Ferdinand Magellan "sighted" the islands in 1521 and after a brief visit they were officially named "Islas Ladrones" and claimed for Spain. The *first* Spanish colony wasn't established until 147 years later in 1668 and the islands were renamed "Islas Mariana" after Mariana of Austria, a Regent of Spain at the time. The Chamorro population was estimated at 50,000 to 75,000. Thus began 230 years of brutal and oppressive rule under which the native Chamorro tribes were resettled to Guam (except for a small number who escaped discovery and remained on Rota) and nearly exterminated. Males of the time did not accept Spanish "rule" and were systematically slaughtered, leaving a small female population for marriage and integration with the male Spanish colonists. It was a brutal and devastating period and by 1784, the Chamorro population was reduced to 1,585 and even further over the next hundred years due to local conflicts and disease.

By the late 19th century, the Mariana Islands had become resettled primarily from Guam with Carolinian immigrants outnumbering the remaining Chamorro. In fact, by the mid- to late 19th century, there were around 450 Carolinians and only nine Chamorro on Saipan and 250 or so Carolinians and one Chamorro on Tinian. The Spanish also brought "Tagalogs" from Luzon during this period and freely intermarried with the female dominated population of all ethnic groups except the Carolinians. Chamorro/Spanish descendants began to outnumber the Carolinians around the start of the 20th century, mainly due to a lack of further Carolinian immigration and stagnant population growth. Check out the early Spanish lists of hundreds of Chamorro family names and you will find that *none* of them exist after the start of the 19th century.

The Spanish-American war ended in 1898 with the capture of the Philippines (see footnote 1) by the Americans. Guam was ceded to the United States and Germany *bought* (from the Spanish) the Marianas and several other previous Spanish island groups in the Pacific. It is of note here that in 1900, the population consisted of only 2,100 "natives" (1,330 Chamorro and 770 Carolinian), 15 Germans, seven Spaniards and 38 Japanese and did not suffer brutalities under German rule. It was a time of relative peace and tranquility (and neglect by the German Empire) except for the rampant disease situation inherited from the Spanish and frequent, severe typhoons. Fully 45 percent of the population was disease ridden and infant mortality was extremely high. German neglect of its Pacific "colonies" was, however, a source of suffering for the native population as the first 10 years allowed rampant decimation from continuing disease. Interestingly enough, the entire Marianas government was run by only 15 German officials and islanders enjoyed freedom and participation. Finally recognizing that the native population was on the verge of becoming extinct, Germany initiated full-time medical treatment (Dr. Paul Schnee) and a rebuilt hospital (Dr. J. Mayer) accompanied by resurgent growth. It lasted only four more years.

After the end of World War I in 1918, German holdings in the Pacific were surrendered—mostly to the Japanese. The Marianas were subjected to rule by an oppressive, dominating and rapidly increasing Japanese presence (over 52,000 at its height) that was aimed at converting every aspect of daily life to that of Japanese tyranny. Japanese goals were economic and strategic, *not* demographic and social. The native population of less than 4,000 was, for all practical purposes, enslaved to Japanese bidding—and suffered.

I'll leave the question of "oppression" under the *current* state of sovereignty to others. There are many interesting accounts of the early history and they make fascinating reading for anyone desiring to learn more—I hope you all will, and my question regarding "sovereignty" to Mr. Del Rosario Jr. remains.

Credit for some citations go to the *1980 CNMI Monograph* by Borja and Levin; to *Disease, Medicine and Empire* by MacLeod and Lewis; to *The Neglected War* by Hermann Hiery; to *Tables of Modern Monetary Systems* by Kurt Schuler; to *The Chan Robles Virtual Law Library*; to *History of the Northern Mariana Islands* by D. Farrell; and to Wikipedia.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

Footnote 1) The Marianas Islands are not *the first Pacific "Commonwealth." In 1899, the Philippines became a U.S. "Territory" (the Malolos Constitution of 1899), followed by "Insular Area" and lastly, from 1935 to 1946, a "Commonwealth with the United States." This status was envisioned under the Philippine Independence Act, popularly known as the Tydings-McDuffie Act as a 10-year transitional government in preparation for full Philippine independence and sovereignty that was promised through the Philippine Autonomy Act or Jones Law. Commonwealth status began on Nov. 15, 1935, with a new Constitution and was ended on time with the recognition of Philippine independence on July 4, 1946. However, the Philippine Commonwealth Constitution of 1935 remained in effect until 1973 and foreign policy and military affairs were still the responsibility of the United States and certain legislation still required the approval of the American President. A new Constitution was ratified by Presidential Proclamation No. 1102 issued by President Ferdinand E. Marcos on Jan. 17, 1973, and the Philippines finally became a truly "sovereign" nation.*

The hope and fears of the independent vote

If the Lt. Governor can make a public appeal to the independent voters then I feel obliged to do the same on behalf of those who really want change in the CNMI. There is really a great deal of hope and even excitement moving through the CNMI with the runoff election and, needless to say, all eyes are on the independent voters. Independent voters want change, which is why they voted against the present administration.

Social and political science dictates that independent voters will overwhelmingly continue to have hope and vote for change through H&A in the runoff. The good thing about these *bitter times* is that the bad times have brought people together to find change, economic prosperity and a better life, so hope is very much alive and well for the CNMI in the runoff election.

With federalization being the demarcation line between the two gubernatorial candidates, the first thing we must accept is that there can be no prosperity in the CNMI without federalization, which provides the same quality of life for all people living in the CNMI as we see on the mainland. The history of the CNMI has proven that salaries will never grow without the implementation of federalization. History has proven the local workforce will never be developed at a professional skills level without the implementation of federalization. History has proven the indigenous people have no defense against foreign aggression and terrorism that can guarantee the safety that is offered under federalization. History has proven our government didn't do the work and couldn't make the hard decisions to raise salaries and minimize the alien workforce to provide more jobs for the indigenous people but the decision and the jobs will come with federalization.

I personally think we are fortunate to have Republican gubernatorial candidates in H&A who are traditionally conservative but they have the wisdom to realize that we also need the application of a more moderate and even liberal approach to some of the critical issues facing the Commonwealth. Both conservative and liberal applications are needed to run a balanced, progressive and accountable government. I see their ability to address the need for a conservative and liberal approach to our many social, economic and political challenges as a vital ingredient for the formula of greatness.

What gives me the most hope is that an overwhelming majority of people have already voted against the present administration from the fear of continuous failures and fights with the federal government. The absentee voters and the youth voters have also indicated they want change.

Voters need to ask themselves: *What can the present administration do to improve the quality of life in the CNMI without the help of the federal government?* Consider your answer very seriously because there is only once answer to that question.

The people of the CNMI deserve to find real prosperity with social and economic growth and development. The independent voters have our fate in their hands. In a democracy the closest we can come to being one people is a majority and for the next four years we will have to be one people headed in the same direction so let us make sure the right person is at the helm, setting the right course for change in the Commonwealth.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Ramblings

This isn't to subject a Ph.D. from his fearful assertion of being "diced, sliced and spliced" for saying his piece. Dr. Arkle, views—whether written in good taste or "in your face"—still constitute freedom of speech and expression.

Perhaps a lesson in humility is in order for a sagacious intellectual who did nothing but display his failure to research and understand his materials. Thus, the ramblings as convenient substitutes over reasoned analysis. His questions beg whatever happened to common sense. And he displayed the usual White Anglo-Saxon predatory attitude to breath down fire versus outspoken and fearless indigenous people. It's written all over his lengthy ramblings.

Wrong 101: You call my viewpoint "extremist" or did you find it difficult fathoming the issues raised because you failed to read and understand the Covenant agreement in its entirety? You can't selectively bifurcate one provision over the other. If you did, then you would have missed how the agreement limited the authority of the U.S. Congress from imposing changes to mutual consent and other provisions. How could a super academia with a Ph.D. miss it all? It's the forest over the trees, sir.

Wrong 101: The people of these islands were sovereign since four thousand years until imperialist governments came over the last four centuries and rapaciously forced our ancestors to practice the predominant culture (Spain, Germany, Japan and U.S.) over ours. Each owes our people an apology and I haven't seen it to this day. But I salute and pray for my ancestors for resolutely protecting these sacred islands and the sea around it for posterity. Well, sir, these isles and its people have always been here and still are here!

Wrong 101: If the Chamorro race hailed from a Malay Peninsula (obviously an impression based on sailors' accounts whose literacy is questionable but found their way into history books) then how is it that we are Christians rather than Muslims? This doesn't even require any critical research but simple common sense. Did you forget the primordial relationship between the indigenous people here and our brothers and sisters from the Pearl of the Orient? Why do you think we have similar language and customs, i.e., flitada, titiyas, sunin bisaya, puede, etc. Therefore, your material is at best an impression secured from piles of impressions used erroneously in perpetuity. It's another tool used by imperialistic predators to force us deeper into the abyss of submission.

Wrong 101: Before you begin dishing out instructions on diction, please revisit your writing habits and work on brevity and clarity so that your half-cocked dissertations don't turn into a yawning piece. But then, like I said, even misinformed viewpoint presented in predatory manner is still Americana! Have a nice day in paradise!

John S. DelRosario, Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Thank you

My wife, children, families and I would like to extend our sincere *un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase, olomwaay,* and thank you to all supporters of Precinct 4 from near and far for giving me your vote of confidence in the Nov. 7th general election. I am especially touched and humbled by the efforts of both Precinct IV Club and Committee to Elect Officers and members for their untiring supports and assistance in one way or another in our fundraising events, pocket meetings, campaigns and most especially during Election Day. Because of you all, we made it and I will do my very best to work for my precinct and the CNMI at large. Once again I am forever grateful for your time and sacrifice. Have a safe and happy holiday season to you all.

Sylvestre Ilo Iguel
Representative-elect, District 4

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

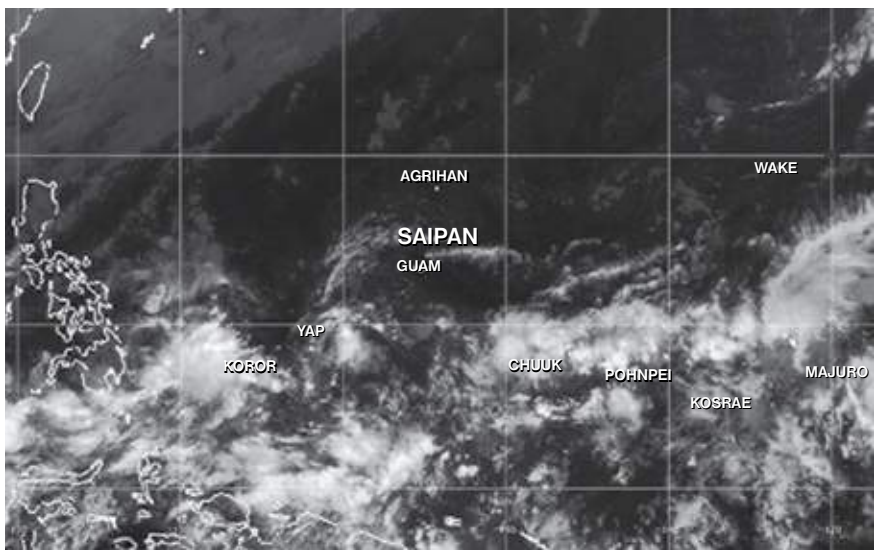
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Rain	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲68	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲36	▼25
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲68	▼60
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼73
London	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼48
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼50
Manila	Showers	▲83	▼75
Melbourne	Hot	▲97	▼69
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼70
New York	Cloudy	▲59	▼50
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼41
Paris	Sunny	▲55	▼45
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲53	▼36
Rome	Sunny	▲67	▼48
Salem	Rain	▲53	▼42
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼49
Seoul	Cloudy	▲40	▼21
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲55	▼44
Washington, DC	Showers	▲61	▼50

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 5N130E through weak circulations centered southeast of Koror near 5N138E and south of Chuuk near 6N151E to finally end at a third weak circulation centered north of Kwajalein near 11N168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the equator and 11N from 130E to 170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation centered north of Kwajalein extend farther northeast to between 11N and 14N from 166E to 172E. A cold front cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 21N130E to 25N138E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along the front and northward to beyond 25N. A surface trough runs southward from the circulation near 11N168E to EQ167E. Trade-wind convergence east of the trough is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands between 2N and 9N from 171E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:59 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:14 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:35 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:58 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:17 AM	7:40 PM
Friday	9:08 AM	8:33 PM
Saturday	9:55 AM	9:26 PM
Sunday	10:38 AM	10:16 PM
Monday	11:18 AM	11:05 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Governor Fitial says he needs ... 5 more years to finish his plans

This Governor executed an Emergency Declaration on CHC citing 'The Commonwealth is experiencing an excessive rate of deaths among community members that can be attributed to the lack of health care...'
OCT 22, 2009

According to a survey of medical staff conducted by Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres, '85% of staff feel that CHC does not adequately meet the medical needs of the community.' SEP 2009

Election results show that 64% of the public reject this administration's policies.

Imagine what he will do if given 5 more years...

In five more years...
we will all be finished...

Vote for Heinz & Arnold!!!

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider-Palacios

Letters to the Editor

Change? What change?

I think the old saying what goes around comes around really rings true to the situation surrounding the election turnout. Who would've thought a decision made by the very same politicians would come back to haunt them. Just think, they could've walked away victorious had they left well enough alone. You see, when the Legislature enacted the law requiring a 51 percent majority to win the governor's seat, they anticipated that it would prevent someone other than themselves or their party from winning with a simple majority. It's the same logic they used when they exempted themselves from the Open Government Act. What were they thinking? Historically in CNMI elections for governor, the incumbent is for the most part at a great disadvantage. That is because, with the exception of Pedro P. Tenorio, no incumbent has ever be re-elected to office—with the voters sending a very strong message by voting heavily in favor of the new candidate. But not this time, as the new candidate is nursing a mere 8-vote advantage. Now that is clearly not a good sign for the challenger as it indicates that the incumbent is hanging in there strong when compared to his predecessors.

For decades now we have been calling for this government to trim off the fat; get rid of excess baggage, specifically employees with desks, phone and computer with no real functions to perform. The good old days when the government acted as employment agency has long passed us. I think that, for the first time, we are beginning to see a real bona fide effort aimed at making this wasteful government live within its mean. It is safe to say that they have stopped the bleeding, so to speak. The thing that I find baffling is the fact that the austerity measures were in place since former governor Pedro P. Tenorio was in office—that's over two decades ago. I also find it rather amusing that someone who has been a sitting politician for over two decades would now be calling for "change." What sort of change we don't know as it was never really articulated by those who advocate it as if it were just merely of rhetorical significance and nothing more. It sounded good when President Obama used it, therefore…

It is no mystery that this government has operated for the most part on the basic reactive mode rather than a pro-active one. I would attribute most of it to a lack of vision to see beyond the immediate, which impairs their ability to anticipate and plan for the future. The ability, for instance, to recognize the plight of hundreds of students who graduate from high school every year lacking the marketable skills to compete for private sector jobs. Many years ago I participated in the development of a high school curriculum to prepare students to enter the visitor's industry market. Someone dropped the ball on that program. This single most provocative moment I experienced during the height of the economic boom of the '80s is walking into a classroom and seeing it partitioned in half with plywood to address overcrowding. I knew then that we were doomed.

For the first time in quite a while we are beginning to see stability in government and to some extent in the economy as well and we don't look so desperate anymore. As an optimist I think the worst is behind us. The one thing that's clear now is that we are down about $50 million in revenue and are still managing. I just hope the politicians remember these times as teaching moments. We should leave well enough alone and just let it be.

Jose C. Mafnas
As Matuis, Saipan

A vote for Heinz

Out of respect for my supporters that may have supported other candidates I was going to remain neutral in the gubernatorial election, but too much is at stake during this juncture in our history and now is not the time to remain silent.

The two candidates left standing from the general election, Ben Fitial and Heinz Hofschneider, are both good men. They have collectively served this community for nearly half a century and I believe it is the intention of both men to do what is right for our people.

However, an election, as I recently learned first hand, can only have one winner. The voters of the Commonwealth must choose between these two long time public servants and decide who will be our head of state for the next five years.

I am voting for Heinz Hofschneider in the gubernatorial runoff election. I fully endorse his candidacy and ask that you vote for him on Nov. 23.

While Ben Fitial has been a supporter of Beautify CNMI, a campaign I hold very close to my heart, I cannot in good conscience vote for the man that refused to meet with concerned citizens for nearly two years concerning another very important issue, ocean conservation.

Instead of meeting with us to hear what we had to say, instead of engaging us to understand our intentions, instead of hearing our pleas to just listen, he ordered his administration to carry out a campaign appealing to the worst side of our local people. And this was not the only island issue in which he did this. And we were not the only targets of his vindictiveness.

My experience with Heinz Hofschneider was the reverse. He took the time to listen to us. He made a point to educate himself on the subject. He sought out experts that knew more about the subject than himself. And after careful consideration he made his decision.

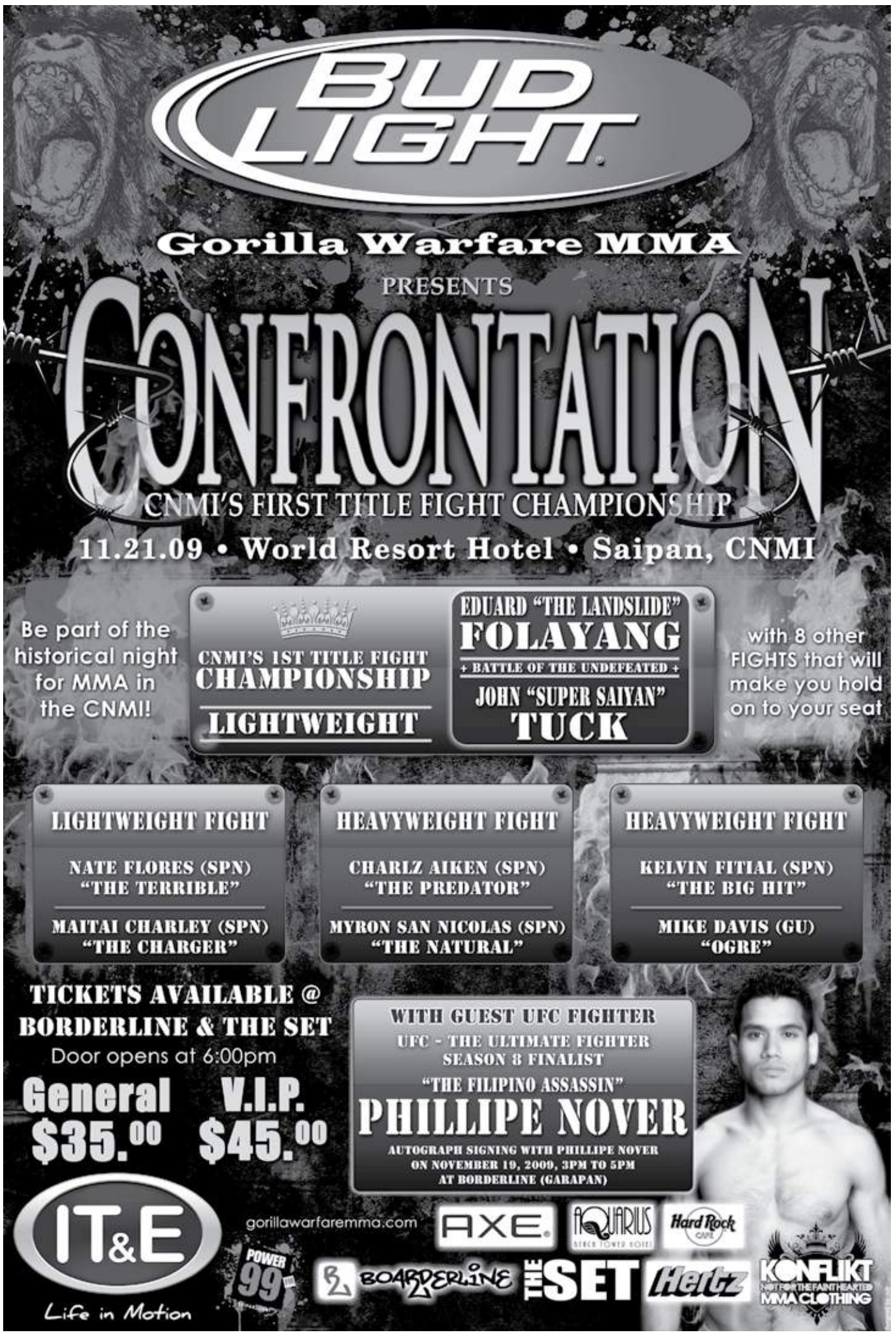
Heinz is the type of man I want leading our people. I humbly ask you to support his bid as our next governor.

Angelo O'Connor Villagomez
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Vote wisely

What ever happened to "We want change" and I quote some of the "Kumoi-Borja" and the "Juan Pan-Joe Camacho" supporters, yelling, "We want change" in leadership due to CUC still having problems and yet to satisfy USEPA with stipulation orders, and us paying the highest utility rates in any other U.S. territory, commonwealth or in the mainland? At CHC, patients have to wait 3 to 4 hours to be seen or go to a private clinics, medical referral is our number one solution to solving the issues about the shortage of doctors, and our patients have to be at 50 percent survival rate before they are referred off-island, which is too late for recovery. Tourism is still declining; unemployment is on the rise that leads to crimes. Corruption is everywhere as stated by Chief Justice Demapan on his Judiciary Commonwealth Report. Now, I'll ask all the supporters of "Kumoi-Borja" and "Juan 'Pan'-Joe Camacho" who have decided to joined the Fitial-Inos team: After the general election on Nov. 7, 2009, did you immediately see the changes from the incumbents? Are all your concerns being address? Are you satisfied already, no more problems? If so, then I am happy for you all. But to those who are still suffering and really do want change, then please vote wisely, on Nov. 23, 2009.

Joseph Mafnas Palacios
Congressman-elect Precinct 1



Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Waving
Friday, November 20, 2009
4:00 - 6:00p.m.
Microl Intersection

Rally
Saturday, November 21, 2009
9:00a.m. waving
10:00 a.m. food, fun and entertainment
Garapan Fishing Base

On November 23rd, Make the "Right" Choice

Vote Ben and Eloy!

Please join us!

www.beneloy.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

SEDC praises CNMI planning guide for Guam's buildup

The CNMI Strategic Economic Development Council recently received a final copy of the CNMI's Planning Document titled, "A Strategic Approach: Utilizing CNMI's Natural Resources to Provide Complementary Support to DoD," prepared by Project Management Operations, LLC and paid for through the Office of Insular Affairs.

The report was prepared at the recommendation of former Assistant Secretary of the Navy, BJ Penn, in his visit with the Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council. While the SEDC requested the grant funding, the CNMI Department of Commerce was responsible for administration of the grant and oversight of the contracted work.

The planning document was paid for through a technical assistance grant from OIA and was awarded to the Colorado-based company. Project Management Operations provided access to a military planner who was familiar with Defense requirements, particularly in areas of Base Realignment and Closures.

"I took the recommendation of the Secretary Penn and advised our SEDC to ensure that we develop a marketing plan, which highlights specific uses of the CNMI's human resources, infrastructure, and natural resources," said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. "I required the solicitation of the public in the final submission of the report and asked that various dynamics were taken into consideration in the development of the plan. This planning document is a good starting point for meaningful discussions with our partners in Guam and in the Department of Defense about the realistic uses of the CNMI in the much anticipated military buildup."

"The report defines exactly what Governor Fitial directed the SEDC to develop. It provides us with insight as to what the Department of Defenses' requirements would be along with the potential uses for the CNMI in an effort to fill those needs," said SEDC chair Bob Jones.

"The primary purpose of the report was to provide the CNMI with direction on what we realistically could provide the Department of Defense with in terms of resources. We knew that we would have a tough time competing with Guam, so we took the approach that we should try to support Guam for areas of DoD needs which provided a natural fit with our resources," said Commerce Secretary Michael Ada.

The document was highlighted in yesterday's Military Symposium and has been shared with various Defense agencies, all of whom have expressed the value of having such a document.

"The CNMI has been working quietly on its approach to the military buildup in a way that builds partnership with our neighbors in Guam and the Department of Defense. We have been working with the Office of Economic Adjustment, under DoD, as well as various officials from Naval Facilities, and the Joint Guam Program Office," said Ada.

The report provides the CNMI with "Talking Points" that speak directly to known defense needs.

"This dynamic allows the CNMI to begin the dialogue with the Department of Defense on their specific needs and how we can service those detailed needs," said Jones.

"I am extremely pleased at the effort of the SEDC to heed the recommendation of former Assistant Secretary Penn. This planning document is the first CNMI produced document that speaks directly to the military buildup. While much has been said about what is going to happen, we took the approach of providing solutions to the needs of the Department of Defense," said Fitial. ***(PR)***

Schoolchildren invited to 8th Annual Christmas in the Marianas

The Marianas Visitors Authority is inviting all students in private and public schools to join the 8th Annual Christmas in the Marianas festivities to be held on Dec. 19, 2009. The deadline to submit the school's registration is Nov. 24. A meeting today, Nov. 19, at 3pm at the MVA conference room will provide more information to participating schools.

The public celebration will kick off with a 5km/10km Health Walk sponsored by the Marianas Walking Association. Following the walk, the celebration will continue with a parade complete with floats, a costume show, and Christmas caroling.

The health walk registration begins at 3:30pm at the American Memorial Park parking lot, and the event begins at 4pm. The walking event will include a long course through Saipan's main tourist district and along the island's scenic beaches south to the Old Japanese tank and back, while the short course will take participants along the same path to 13 Fishermen's Memorial and back. The first 100 participants to complete the walk will get a free t-shirt, and aid stations will provide water and fruit.

Families will then be able to enjoy the parade, float contest, costume show, and Christmas caroling. The Float Contest assembly begins at the Carolinian Affairs Office grounds at 5pm. The parade begins at 5:30pm and heads north along Beach Rd. to American Memorial Park. During the parade, the floats will be judged as they pass through Garapan.

After the parade, the children will have an opportunity to show off their costumes. Presentations will be judged based on originality, relevance to theme, performance, choreography, audience participation, costume props, and use of recycled wear.

The Caroling Contest with prizes will take place from 6:30pm to 9pm at the American Memorial Park.

"We're very pleased to again host the Christmas in the Marianas celebration," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This is a fun seasonal event for our visitors *and* our community. We invite all the public and private schools to join us in this entertaining event."

Drivers are advised that Beach Road parade route will be closed on Dec. 19 from 5pm to 7pm. For more information, contact Gordon Marciano at 1.670.287.1195 or Gordon@pdisaipan.com or Frank Tudela at 1.670.664.3200 or ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

MVA

The annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration featuring schoolchildren of the Northern Marianas Islands will be held on Dec. 19, 2009, in Garapan, Saipan. Interested schools are inviting to attend a planning meeting on Nov. 19, 2009, at 3pm at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in Oleai.

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!
SATURDAY morning, November 21, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
Join us this
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – 13 Fishermen
Tinian: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tachonga Beach
Rota: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tétoto Beach

DOI releases FY10 public infrastructure grant funding to FSM

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Insular Assistant Secretary, Tony Babauta, signed a $9,250,000 grant for fiscal year 2010 as part of the Compact of Free Association agreement between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The funding supports projects submitted by the FSM and subsequently approved by the Joint Economic Management Committee at its' September 2009 regular meeting. The funds will be used by the FSM to obtain professional engineering and design services and develop preliminary engineering reports for proposed infrastructure projects which will benefit all States in the FSM

"The scope of projects that this funding will support further demonstrates the commitment of the United States to the genuine friendship and political relationship that has been fostered with the people of the Federated States of Micronesia over the past four decades," said Babauta. "I am very pleased that President Mori has targeted this funding to improve schools, healthcare, and needed infrastructure, all of which work towards the Compact's goal to improve quality of life for FSM's citizens."

Projects to be supported include:

- Early Childhood Education Classes – Pohnpei State
- Yap High School Vocational Education Building – Yap State
- PICS High School Library/Classroom Building – Pohnpei State
- Yap High School Classroom Building – Yap State
- Madolenihmw High School Library/Classroom Building – Pohnpei State
- Nanpei Memorial High School Library/Classroom Building – Pohnpei State
- Chuuk Campus – College of Micronesia Phase 1 – National Government
- Chuuk Campus – College of Micronesia Phase 2 – National Government
- National Campus – College of Micronesia Student Center – National Government
- Pohnpei Campus – College of Micronesia Vocational Center/Classroom Building – Pohnpei State
- Chuuk State Hospital Renovation – Chuuk State
- Chuuk State Dispensaries – Chuuk State
- Kosrae State Correctional Facility – Kosrae State
- Primary Health Care/Dental Facility – Pohnpei State
- Kosrae Campus College of Micronesia – Learning Resource Center – National Government
- Weno Road Phase 2* - Chuuk State (see Special Terms and Conditions #2)
- Tamilang Elementary School – Yap State
- New Hospital – Kosrae State
- Pohnpei State Campus College of Micronesia – Learning Resource Center – National Government

Preliminary Engineering Reports:

- Kinakapw to Lehn Diadi Water Line – Pohnpei State
- Sekere to Nanpei Memorial High School Water Line – Pohnpei State
- Lelu Water System – Kosrae State
- Kolonia to Palikir Sewer System Expansion – Pohnpei State
- Kolonia to U Sewer System Expansion – Pohnpei State
- Three Bridges – Yap State
- Closure and Relocation of Public Solid Waste Disposal Site – Pohnpei State
- Emergency Generator - Pohnpei State Hospital – Pohnpei State ***(DOI)***

Republican, Democrat, and Independent Leaders unite for Proven Leadership, Proven Experience.

On November 23rd, Make the 'Right' Choice

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EMERGENCY

From Page 1

The nurses have taken the baby's blood sample and sent it the laboratory for testing. The parents wait.

Half an hour later, Dr. Shirish Balachandra walks in. "We're still waiting for the results."

Balachandra is three hours away from finishing his 12-hour shift. But it's Friday, usually a busy day with parents off from work. They have time to take their children to the emergency medicine department of the Commonwealth Health Center.

"On weekend the ER also becomes a children's clinic. We're treating not really emergency cases … mostly runny noses, diarrhea and vomiting, which you can take care of [by drinking] ginger ale," says Gregory Kotheimer, head of the Emergency Medicine Department. These patients are indigent and could not afford to go to a private clinic. "They have no place else to go."

The baby has a boil on his butt. From the outset, it is obvious to Balachandra that the boil should be drained. But not without first getting the baby's vital statistics and laboratory exam results. And definitely not without the doctor having a pep talk with the parents, explaining the procedure and the risks.

Balachandra: *We have to make him sleep so he does not to feel the pain. It's the only humane way to do it.*

Baby's father: *Can we do this today? The sooner, the better.*

Balanchandra: *Yes. Why wait till it gets worse? Let's just get the result on his blood work to make sure there's nothing to worry about. …We'll put him on an IV. He'll be essentially out.*

Baby's father: *Is he going to be admitted?*

Balachandra: *Yeah. We have to keep him for observation for a little while because, you know, we will use a mild level of anesthesia. So you have to keep him here for at least 24 hours. Okay? Is that reasonable to you?*

Baby's father: *Yes, thank you.*

Balachandra walks back to the nurses' station to study the laboratory results and make phone calls. Speaking in French, he requests a Canadian respiratory therapist to make sure that the sedated child will continue breathing during the procedure, which essentially entails draining the abscess on his butt.

Less than an hour later the procedure is done, the baby and his parents leave the ER and Balachandra moves on to the next patient.

■■■

Balachandra, 35, is one of the three doctors on rotation at the ER. Born in Illinois, he grew up in Los Angeles, Calif., and lived in India, Honduras, France and Cameroon, where he worked as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, serving Somali and Liberia refugees in the area. He studied molecular biology and French literature at the University of California Berkley and went to medical school at McGill University in Montréal, Canada.

In May 2008, he moved to the island with his wife, April, a midwife at CHC, and kids. "We were looking for opportunities to work in underserved areas … and looking for simpler lifestyle for our kids," he says.

"I love my job. I love going to work everyday. Mostly patients are fantastic. They are down to earth, sensible people who have reasonable expectations on what we can and cannot accomplish," the soft-spoken Balachandra says of his stint at the ER.

The ER is a hospital's window to its community. The situation there reflects how the hospital is being run, or in the case of CHC, "mismanaged," according to the CNMI House of Representatives' Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare.

Chaired by Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres, the HEW committee recently directed its attention to CHC following constituents' complaints over the long hours of wait at the ER.

Two doors lead patients to the ER: the first facing the parking lot is where ambulances pull in to rush critical or injured patients; the second entrance inside the building is where a number of patients sit on rows of chairs, waiting sometimes for up to four hours to see a doctor. The ER is where most of the criticisms of CHC emanate.

The nine-bed ER is open 24 hours daily with at least one doctor and a team of five nurses—all U.S. licensed—on duty. The walls are painted white with royal blue trimmings, matching the color of the nurses' uniform. On one wall is a bulletin board announcing schedule, memoranda and other notices. On the other side is a giant whiteboard showing the names of doctors who are on-call and in-charge of a particular work shift.

Doctors and nurses seem to get along well. Kotheimer occasionally brings stuffed animals to give away to nurses, who keep the doctors' mugs filled with coffee. But once a patient comes in, they all buckle down to work, rushing about between the rooms and the nurses' station.

"The nurses are fantastic," says Balachandra, who has learned some Filipino words over the past year. Most, if not all, ER nurses are from the Philippines. "[The nurses] anticipate the needs of the patients. Their skill set is excellent and their work ethic is great."

The nurses manage triage, the sorting of patients to determine medical priority.

"If [patients] come in with chronic or non-urgent complaints then they go to the bottom of the list. If [patients] are waiting, that is because they can afford to wait," Balachandra explains. "If someone is suffering a heart attack, they are put in bed within a minute and they get two or three people taking care of them immediately," he assures.

■■■

One main reason the ER has turned into a children's clinic is because the hospital does not have enough physicians to keep the pediatrician's clinic open. Dr. Tutet Nguyen, pediatrician, resigned along with her husband, Dr. Florian Braig, an ear, eyes, nose and throat specialist at CHC. Both were hired from Canada.

The closing of the pediatrician's clinic indicates a bigger problem at CHC: the exodus of physicians. Nguyen and Braig are not the only ones who left CHC this year. Personnel records from the Department of Public Health, which operates CHC, show that 26 doctors resigned in 2009 alone; 20 in 2008; 18 in 2007; and seven in 2006.

At a recent oversight hearing by the HEW committee, DPH's human resources manager Marciana D. Igitol explained that the high turnover could be because a number of doctors were hired as locum or temporary, which means they have to leave the hospital after three months of working. However, other full-time doctors "opted to not renew for better pay," she said.

Low salary has been a major sticking point for doctors at CHC. Kotheimer, also the hospital's acting chief of staff beginning Sept. 1, 2009, admits he is becoming tired of hearing doctors saying how much they could be making if they were in the mainland U.S.

Emergency physicians in the mainland U.S. are receiving $120 per hour whereas Kotheimer and his ER colleagues are getting only $70 per hour. This disparity in salaries is compounded by the amount of time doctors have to put in. For some doctors, it is disappointing to be on an island like Saipan and not enjoy the beaches.

"It's a balance between pay and lifestyle. If [doctors] have lifestyle then they don't mind the pay. But if you don't have a lifestyle and pay is too low then you get frustrated," points out Kotheimer, who worked in a hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia before moving to CHC four years ago.

Salaries should go up, Kotheimer warns. Otherwise, "you will start to get underqualified people, which is going to be very difficult here because we have U.S. standards," he says. Since Medicare (federal health insurance for people aged 65 years old and above) and Medicaid (federal health insurance for indigents) pay a portion of the medical bills, CHC has to abide by the health care criteria set by these two federal agencies. One of those criteria is that doctors should be either U.S.- or Canada-licensed.

Even though he is an internal medicine specialist, Kotheimer has been thrust into filling a 12-hour shift because CHC suffers from a dearth of emergency-trained doctors. "Somebody has to fill the shift. We are trying to keep this place open," he says.

On some weeks he works for 72 hours, way beyond the ER standard of a 36-hour workweek. Unless this trend stops, Kotheimer says, "as soon as my wife passes the NCLEX [a U.S. nursing licensure exam] I am out of here."

To address the lack of doctors, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared in September 2009 a state of emergency for DPH. Fitial believed this would allow government to hire doctors from the Philippines to cover some shifts at the ER.

However, Kotheimer points out, "It won't work [at the ER]. They cannot order narcotics. They cannot work here." Doctors cannot prescribe medicine unless they are registered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Doctors from the Philippines are not.

Besides salaries, doctors also complain about the lack of appropriate diagnostic equipment at CHC.

Former CHC medical director Edward Cornett said DPH management "should be more honest with the doctors" about the situation at the hospital instead of making false promises during recruitment.

For example, a recent job announcement, which Enterprise Medical Services released on behalf of DPH, read: "Have you ever thought of island living while still practicing high quality medicine? This is the opportunity for you! …Solid specialty back up and immediate access to CT Scan and ultrasonography."

"But we come here and we have no needed medical tools to make proper diagnosis," said Cornett, who was also CHC's director of Emergency Medicine for two years until he resigned in April 2008. "The CT scanner over here is ridiculously old. It is essentially worthless."

The CT scanner (computed tomography) has never been upgraded since the hospital opened in November 1986. Cornett said CHC needs a 64-slice CT scanner to get image data from different angles and several types of tissue around the body. The market cost for a CT scanner $1.5 million.

The absence of this CT scanner spells trouble for the CNMI where a considerable number of people are obese, diabetic, or leading a sedentary lifestyle. Cornett said these people are at risk of suffering from pulmonary embolism, a blood clot that ends up in the lung. This type of disease can be diagnosed when a patient gets pulmonary angiogram or x-ray of the blood vessels using the CT scanner.

"Do you know how many pulmonary emboli that we missed here? We can't make the diagnosis—a very simple diagnosis of a very deadly disease process," Cornett said.

There was also a time when CHC ran out of "packed red blood cells" for transfusion and some suture materials—all basic needs in running an ER.

"The list is nauseating. You need the tools in order to give quality medicine here and we don't have it," Cornett said.

■■■

Just as Balachandra is ending his 12-hour shift, a laboratory technician walks in to report that they no longer have Troponin, a reagent necessary in diagnosing heart attack.

"The problem with the lab is that the hospital has not paid the vendor. They have some outstanding balance since May amounting to $70,000," Balachandra says. "That's a little bit frustrating."

Until 2003, CHC had been procuring medical supplies through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "But they stopped delivering because we could not pay on time," said Medical Supplies Office manager Jose A. Ichihara. A military retiree, Ichihara, 60, has been with CHC since 1992.

Ichihara said his office is responsible for buying the common everyday supplies such as gloves, suture materials and gauze pads for the hospital including the ER. But for operational supplies like reagents, each unit manager is responsible for replenishing them. "Only managers, say for the operating room or the intensive care unit, for instance, know what supplies are needed for their respective department," he said.

However, unit managers could not replenish their supplies on time because the CNMI Department of Finance does not have enough cash flow to pay the vendors. "Any company won't deliver unless you pay," Ichihara said. Procurement issues are further compounded because of shipping costs. "Even if we manage to get the supplies at a discounted price, we still have to pay extra for freight costs," he said.

Regardless of the occasional supply shortages and grumbles about salaries, Kotheimer says, "We've got a good crew. They are conscientious. I hope the Legislature ends up raising salaries. If they can do that then everything will be just fine."

Meanwhile, Kotheimer assures that they will continue treating non-emergency cases. "It's okay. We're here to serve. Our motto is saving lives one at a time."

House committee seeks DPH's emergency 'plan'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Health, Education and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) asked Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Vilagomez yesterday to provide a copy of a plan to move the CNMI from its present "medical emergency" status to an acceptable level.

The plan is required by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Oct. 20 declaration of health emergency in the CNMI.

Torres, in a Nov. 18 letter to Villagomez, said the deadline for submitting such plan—15 days from the Oct. 20 emergency declaration—was on or about Nov. 4.

"As such, I am requesting a copy of DPH's written plan and all relevant information pursuant to a declaration of health emergency," he said.

Villagomez, when asked for comment yesterday, said "the operational plan was done on time" but he said he will need to go over the plan with the governor before DPH can release it.

Torres also attached in his letter to Villagomez the 38-page report on the October oversight hearing held by the committee on the Commonwealth Health Center.

The committee issued almost 70 directives, and concluded that a "complete overhaul" of CHC is needed to help improve the agency.

"The Committee had completed and filed its CHC oversight committee report. The Committee expects DPH's written plan to be consistent with the oversight committee report," Torres told Villagomez.

Fitial's declaration of health emergency paves the way for the hiring of doctors from countries outside the U.S. and Canada, including those from the Philippines or Australia.

In his declaration, the governor said the CNMI is "experiencing an increasing rate of deaths among community members that can be attributed to lack of health care," and that the current systems of health care delivery are overtaxed with less than needed numbers of physicians and nurses available to serve medical needs.

The governor also said that the rate of off-island referrals has increased to the point where it poses a fiscal threat to the economic stability of the Executive Branch.

Senator Paul Manglona and leaders of Rota unite for Proven Leadership, Proven Experience.

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Business

IMPROPER PAYMENTS

Govt report: Over $98B wasted

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than $98 billion in taxpayer dollars spent by government agencies was wasted, much of it on questionable claims for tax credits and Medicare benefits, representing an increase of $26 billion from the previous year.

In all, about 5 percent of spending in federal programs in fiscal year 2009 was improper, according to new details of a government financial report that were released Tuesday. Saying the overall error rate was similar in 2008, officials attributed the $26 billion jump to some changes in how to define improper spending as well as an increase in overall spending due to the recession.

President Barack Obama is expected to sign an executive order within the next week aimed at cracking down on government waste and fraud, particularly in Medicare and other benefit programs. In the 2009 report, the government officially reported questionable Medicare payments of roughly $36 billion, but that amount will be revised upward to about $48 billion next year as the Health and Human Services Department fully converts to a new methodology that imposes stricter documentation requirements. "We need to protect taxpayer dollars," Peter Orszag, director of the Office of Management and Budget, told reporters. "Every dollar that goes to the wrong recipient or in the wrong amount is a dollar not available to help an unemployed worker, or to invest in education or key priorities of the administration."

Under the executive order, every federal agency would have to maintain a Web site that tracks improper payments, error rates and outstanding payments. If an agency doesn't meet targets for reducing error rates for two years in a row, the agency director and responsible official will have to directly report to OMB to explain the delinquency and new actions they will take.

The Obama administration will also seek to impose penalties on government contractors that receive improper payments so they have incentives to return the money, Orszag said.

Among the reported waste:

■ Agriculture: $4.3 billion in improper payments, or 5.9 percent of total department spending. Much of it was in the food stamp, federal crop insurance and school meals programs.

■ Defense: $849 million, or 0.5 percent.

■ Education: $599 million, or 2.1 percent.

■ Health and Human Services: $55.1 billion, or 9.4 percent. That included improper payment rates of 7.8 percent and 15.4 percent in the Medicare fee for service and Advantage programs, respectively.

■ Homeland Security: $644.5 million, or 3.7 percent. Much of it was in the Homeland Security grant program as well as Disaster Relief Fund Vendor Payments.

■ Housing and Urban Development: $1 billion, or 3.5 percent. All of it was attributed to public housing and rental assistance.

■ Labor: $12.3 billion, or 9.9 percent. Almost all of the improper payments were in the unemployment insurance program.

■ Treasury: $12.3 billion, or 25.5 percent. All of it was attributed to improper payments in the earned income tax credit.

■ Transportation: $1.5 billion, or 3 percent. Much of it was in the Federal Highway Administration planning and construction program.

■ Veterans Affairs: $1.2 billion, or 2.7 percent. That included improper payments in the pension and other compensation programs.

■ Social Security Administration: $8.0 billion, or 1.2 percent.

Ford, Subaru, VW win insurance industry picks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ford, Subaru and Volkswagen sit atop the insurance industry's annual list of the safest new vehicles, according to a closely watched assessment used by car companies to lure safety-conscious consumers to showrooms.

The Virginia-based Insurance Institute for Highway Safety awarded its "top safety pick" on Wednesday to 19 passenger cars and eight sport utility vehicles for the 2010 model year. The institute substantially reduced the number of awards compared with 2009, because of tougher requirements for roof strength.

Ford Motor Co. and its Volvo unit received the most awards with six, followed by five awards apiece for Japanese automaker Subaru and German automaker Volkswagen AG and its Audi unit.

Chrysler Group LLC received four awards followed by two each for Honda Motor Co. and General Motors Co.

Toyota Motor Corp., BMW AG, Mazda Motor Corp. and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. were shut out in the annual IIHS review.

Ford's recipients include the Ford Taurus and Lincoln MKS passenger cars and the Volvo S80 and C30 passenger cars and the XC60 and XC90 SUVs.

Ford said in a statement it is "committed to providing customers with safe vehicles for a broad range of real-world crash conditions."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Geithner: US must not drop ball on financial fix

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told Congress on Tuesday that efforts to strengthen the global financial system to prevent another deep crisis will falter if the United States drops the ball on overhauling regulation of its own banking system. "We need to move on the reform agenda when the memory of the crisis is still acute," Geithner said in testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Geithner also echoed remarks by President Barack Obama in Asia that, while the global economy is moving toward a recovery, countries can no longer rely on American consumers to serve as the sole engine of economic growth.

Madoff yacht, boats sold at auction in Fla.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's yacht "Bull", two smaller boats and a Mercedes-Benz convertible were sold at auction Tuesday for more than $1 million combined. Madoff's 1969 Rybovich, a restored 55-foot fishing boat, sold for $700,000 to an unknown buyer. A 38-foot Shelter Island runabout named "Sitting Bull" went for $320,000 and the 24-foot Maverick center console "Little Bull" fetched $21,000. The Mercedes, a 1999 model owned by Ruth Madoff, sold for $30,000. A 61-foot Viking yacht once owned by Madoff's former chief financial officer, Frank DiPascali, sold for $950,000.

Goldman Sachs, Buffett to help small businesses

NEW YORK (AP)—Goldman Sachs Group Inc. is teaming with billionaire investor Warren Buffett to invest $500 million to provide thousands of small business owners across America with college scholarships and boost their access to capital. The move comes as the company has been criticized for setting aside billions for employee paychecks despite the continuing weak economy. Goldman's philanthropic effort, called "10,000 Small Businesses," includes a $200 million contribution to community colleges, universities and other institutions to give grants to small business owners to further their education.

Nation

Fort Hood slayings prompt full Pentagon review

WASHINGTON (AP)—Worried that the Army may have missed red flags about the alleged shooter in the Fort Hood massacre, the Pentagon will likely launch an inquiry into how all the military services keep watch on other volatile soldiers hidden in their ranks, officials said Tuesday.

The probe, still in the planning stages, would be a broad examination ranging beyond the specific case of Army psychiatrist Dr. Nidal Malik Hasan, officials said. The inquiry, they said, could look at personnel policies and the availability of mental health services for troubled troops.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates wants a unified probe that goes beyond the Army, but has not decided how far-reaching the inquiry would be or who would lead it, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said Tuesday.

"There are issues that need to be looked at department-wide, and the focus at this point is trying to figure out some of these questions," Morrell said.

The Army's No. 2 officer bluntly said Tuesday that officials fear more people like Hasan may be undetected inside the armed forces.

AP

Family members, right, watch as military funeral personel fold the American flag, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009, outside Saint Monica's Church in Cameron, Texas.

"I think we always have to be concerned about that," Army Vice-Chief of Staff Peter Chiarelli said as he outlined separate efforts to curb rising suicide rates in the Army. The service has been the combat force most affected by the stress of fighting two wars.

AP sources: Senate weighs long-term care program

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate health care legislation expected this week is likely to include a new long-term care insurance program to help the elderly and the disabled avoid going into nursing homes, Democratic officials say.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is expected to incorporate the voluntary program in legislation to be unveiled as early as Wednesday, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because a final decision has not been made.

Known as the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act, or CLASS Act, the program was a top priority for the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. It would begin to close a gap in the social safety net that's received little attention in the health care debate.

Fiscal conservatives and government economists have questioned whether the program would be financially sustainable over the long run, and insurance companies are lobbying to strip it from the health care bill.

Nonetheless, the House included the program in its health care legislation, with the approval of the Obama administration. In the Senate, the Health Committee bill had included it, but the Finance Committee omitted it. The approach Reid is considering in a combined bill would address the objections of fiscal conservatives by stipulating that premiums from the program could not be counted in offsetting the cost of the broader health care bill. Reid's office had no comment on Tuesday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Report: Homosexuality no factor in abusive priests

BALTIMORE (AP)—A preliminary report commissioned by the nation's Roman Catholic bishops on the roots of the clergy sex abuse scandal found no evidence that gay priests are more likely than heterosexual clergy to molest children, the lead authors of the study said Tuesday. The full report by researchers at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice won't be completed until the end of next year. But the authors said that their evidence to date found no data indicating that homosexuality was a predictor of abuse. "What we are suggesting is that the idea of sexual identity be separated from the problem of sexual abuse," said Margaret Smith of John Jay College, in a speech to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "At this point, we do not find a connection between homosexual identity and the increased likelihood of subsequent abuse from the data that we have right now."

First US trial of 9/11 case was full of surprises

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—Zacarias Moussaoui was a clown who could not keep his mouth shut, according to his old al-Qaida boss, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed. But Moussaoui was surprisingly tame when tried for the 9/11 attacks—never turning the courtroom into the circus of anti-U.S. tirades that some fear Mohammed will create at his trial in New York. And that wasn't the only surprise during Moussaoui's six-week 2006 sentencing trial here—a proceeding that might foreshadow how the upcoming 9/11 trial in New York will go. Skeptics who feared prosecutors would be hamstrung by how much evidence was secret were stunned at the enormous amount of classified data that was scrubbed, under pressure from the judge, into a public version acceptable to both sides.

Relatives of Mo. family doubt sex abuse claims

LEXINGTON, Mo. (AP)—If the tales they told police are true, a group of children in rural Missouri grew up in a house of horror, where some were raped by relatives, then told to write down their memories in little glass jars and bury them in the ground. Two decades later though, as authorities work to piece together what happened, there's no evidence the jars have been found and other relatives say police have offered little evidence to support their accusations. Burrell Mohler Sr., 77, and his four adult sons appeared in court in western Missouri on Tuesday where they were charged with additional sex crimes including rape and sodomy, and in a bizarre twist, a search warrant claims one of the suspects forced their victims to help kill and bury a man.

On November 23rd, you will choose between two competing gubernatorial tickets: Before you choose, be sure you know exactly who you are choosing and why.

My Opponents	Governor Fitial and Lt. Gov. Inos
Initially opposed Aggreko contract but offered no realistic alternative	Leased Aggreko engines to end daily rolling power outages
Opposed and blocked privatization	Supported CUC Privatization and issued an RFP that drew interest from major power companies
Passed law through override to force a private company to pay $250 million to privatize CUC[1]. This proposal would cost each ratepayer an average of an additional $140 per month for 10 years. **If you pay $200 a month now you would pay $340 under the HEINZ TAX!** **MORE THAN 50% INCREASE IN YOUR UTILITY BILL!**	Set a minimum fee for power companies to submit RFP, but did not impose a price floor to control costs
Claimed CUC is worth $1 billion but is willing to sell it for no less than $250 million[2]. What company would not pass along that cost to the consumer? Even if they decided on the "improve the infrastructure" option, who would pay for that cost? **THE ANSWER IS CLEAR – YOU THE RATEPAYER – WOULD PAY THAT COST!**	Understands that CUC engines purchased in 1982 are fully depreciated and that demanding a high purchase price would only tax CUC consumers. We recognize that the worldwide fuel costs have driven up the cost to provide stable power and are working night and day to find alternative sources of power – not find ways to INCREASE YOUR COSTS!
Attacked Administration's CUC management	Hired experts and successfully rehabilitated CUC engines
Refused to write-off CUC CDA debt	Cleared $170 million in CUC-CDA debt through debt-to-equity conversion agreement
Reduced CUC rates during midterm election for political self-preservation while fuel prices soared, only to later reluctantly suspend P.L. 15-94 because of financial necessity	Established CPUC to set rates fairly by protecting Consumers while still ensuring full cost recovery
No plan!	Continues to find and explore alternative energy sources which would lower costs universally across the NMI, including submitting timely ARRA funding requests

On November 23rd, Make the "Right" choice.
We won't take chances with the CUC and neither should you!
It's Pretty Clear that We CAN'T AFFORD THE ALTERNATIVE!

VOTE BEN AND ELOY

[1]P.L. 16-17, 16th Legislature — 2008
[2]Statement made by Hofschneider during Gubernatorial Debate hosted by CREAM at the Fiesta Hotel, October 20, 2009

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Asia

Obama: Rally the world for climate deal next month

BEIJING (AP)—President Barack Obama, with China's leader at his side, lifted his sights Tuesday for a broad accord at next month's climate conference that he said will lead to immediate action and "rally the world" toward a solution on global warming.

Obama and President Hu Jintao talked of a joint desire to tackle climate change, but failed to publicly address the root problems that could unravel a deal at the 192-nation conference in Copenhagen: how much each country can contribute to curb greenhouse gases and how the world will pay the billions of dollars needed to fight rising temperatures.

Hu said nations would do their part "consistent with our respective capabilities," a reference to the now widely accepted view that developing nations—even energy guzzlers like China, India and Brazil—should be required only to set goals for reining in greenhouse-gas emissions, not accept absolute targets for reducing emissions like the industrialized countries.

Nonetheless, the symbolism of the world's two largest polluters pledging no half-measures in an agreement during the Dec. 7-18 conference took the sting out of the admission by Obama and other leaders over the weekend that Copenhagen would be only a way station rather than the endpoint envisioned two years ago when negotiations for a new climate treaty began.

Obama administration officials acknowledge that the Copenhagen talks are not expected to produce a final legal agreement, putting that off until next year. The administration sought to make clear Tuesday that Obama expects the talks to produce something more than "an agreement to have an agreement" at a future date.

AP

U.S. President Barack Obama, left, listens to Chinese President Hu Jintao, as they attend a state dinner reception at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009.

Obama, Hu vow cooperation but produce few deals

BEIJING (AP)—President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao promised a determined, joint effort to tackle climate change, nuclear disarmament and other global troubles yet emerged from their first full-blown summit Tuesday with scant progress beyond goodwill.

After two hours of talks and a separate meeting over dinner the night before, the presidents spoke of moving beyond the divisiveness over human rights, trade and military tensions that have bedeviled relations in past decades.

"The major challenges of the 21st century, from climate change to nuclear proliferation to economic recovery, are challenges that touch both our nations, and challenges that neither of our nations can solve by acting alone," Obama said, standing with the Chinese leader in the Great Hall of the People.

Hu, who heads a collective leadership that often has preferred to go it alone internationally, said: "There are growing global challenges, and countries in today's world have become more and more interdependent."

On climate, Obama said the United States and China are looking for a comprehensive deal during next month's climate change summit that will "rally the world."

Obama said the goal at the Copenhagen meeting should be an agreement that has "immediate operational effect," not just a political declaration. As the world's two largest consumers and producers of energy, Obama said the United States and China must play a key role in negotiating an agreement. Hu committed to helping, but only within China's capabilities.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN appeals for $144 million for Philippines

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations appealed Tuesday for $144 million to help victims of three recent typhoons that devastated the Philippines, nearly double its original request. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Tuesday only $26 million was received in response to the initial appeal in early October for $74 million to help 1 million flood victims. Now, much more is needed. New government data and assessments by U.N. agencies and nongovernmental organizations found that 4.2 million people out of the 10 million affected by the typhoons need help, including more than 520,000 children under the age of five, the U.N. humanitarian office, known as OCHA, said. The $144 million appeal will cover the work of U.N. agencies, the International Organization for Migration and several nongovernmental organizations from November until March 2010, it said.

Amnesty boss urges equality for poor Aborigines

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia must abolish policies that discriminate against Aborigines in its quest to lift its indigenous population out of Third World poverty, the head of an international human rights group said Wednesday. Irene Khan, secretary general of London-based Amnesty International, singled out for criticism the government's so-called emergency intervention aimed at eradicating child sex abuse in Outback Aboriginal communities. The government suspended anti-racial discrimination laws two years ago so that it could target Aborigines in the remote Northern Territory with sweeping measures that ban alcohol and hard-core pornography as well as control how welfare checks can be spent. The restrictions do not apply to Australians of other races.

Cloud cover blocks meteor showers in India, Nepal

NEW DELHI (AP)—Thousands of stargazers stayed awake overnight for what was forecast as an intense Leonid meteor shower over Asia this year, but the show fizzled rather than sizzled for many viewers—partly due to cloud cover. One group of about 30 amateur astronomers had some luck during their vigil at the Siriska wildlife sanctuary, nearly 95 miles (150 kilometers) south of New Delhi—counting 78 Leonids during a four-hour period. "There was no moon in the sky, which is good for observation," said Yogeshwar Kanu Aggarwal, a member of the Space Science Popularization Association of Communications and Educators. "We could see flashes of light for almost 10 seconds as bright as star Sirius."

World

Somali pirates get $3.3M ransom, free 36 hostages

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—As a Spanish warship looked on, a $3.3 million ransom was delivered by boat Tuesday and Somali pirates freed a Spanish trawler and its 36 crew members.

Spain's prime minister did little to deny paying off the hijackers—one reason the lucrative attacks are on the rise.

"The government did what it had to do," Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero told a news conference in Madrid. "The important thing is that the sailors will be back with us. The first obligation of a country, of the government of a state, is to save the lives of its countrymen."

Somali pirates attacked two more ships on Monday and still hold about a dozen ships with more than 200 crew, including a British couple who were taken from their 38-foot sailboat last month.

Ali Gab, a self-described pirate, told The Associated Press the hijackers of the Spanish tuna boat Alakrana were paid $3.3 million in ransom, delivered by boat as sailors aboard a nearby warship watched.

After being freed, the trawler steamed away under the protection of two Spanish warships. All crew members were reported to be in good health after more than six weeks in captivity.

Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega told a news conference the Alakrana was headed for the Seychelles, where U.S. surveillance drones and several warships belonging to a multinational force are based.

The pirates had been pressing for the release of two colleagues captured by Spanish naval forces a day after the hijacking. The Spanish government had been trying to find some sort of legal formula that would allow it to try them and send them back to Somalia.

The two were charged with kidnapping and related charges Monday. De la Vega declined to say if Spain might seek some sort of agreement with Somalia.

Palestinians, US, UK criticize Jerusalem plan

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel moved Tuesday to approve a plan to build 900 more housing units in a Jewish neighborhood in the part of Jerusalem claimed by Palestinians, drawing harsh criticism from the United States.

The Jerusalem district planning commission officially deposited the plan, opening it to comments, objections and appeals from the public. Jerusalem city spokesman Gidi Schmerling said final approval was "many months" away.

Palestinians and Britain denounced the plan, but reaction from the U.S. was especially sharp.

A statement from White House spokesman Robert Gibbs criticized unilateral steps by Israel "that could unilaterally pre-empt, or appear to pre-empt, negotiations" and said the issue of Jerusalem "must be resolved through negotiations between the parties." He added, "The U.S. also objects to other Israeli practices in Jerusalem related to housing, including the continuing pattern of evictions and demolitions of Palestinian homes."

Responding to the White House statement, Nabil Abu Rdeneh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said words from Washington are not enough. "There should be real American pressure on the Israelis to stop all these acts," he told The Associated Press. "Such acts prove that Israel does not want peace and does not want to revive the peace process."

Iran sentences 5 to death in postelection turmoil

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran has sentenced five defendants to death in a mass trial of opposition figures accused of fomenting the unrest that followed the disputed June presidential election, state television reported Tuesday.

The five apparently include three death sentences announced last month. None of the five have been identified by Iranian authorities.

Iran began the mass trial in August of more than 100 prominent opposition figures and activists, accusing them of a range of charges from rioting to spying and plotting what Iran's clerical rulers have depicted as a foreign-backed plot to oust them from power.

In the weeks following the June 12 election, the opposition led massive street protests that drew hundreds of thousands and supporters clashed with security forces. They claimed fraud after election authorities declared President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad the winner of a second term and their anger unleashed the most serious internal unrest in Iran in the 30 years since the Islamic Revolution.

A harsh crackdown ended the demonstrations and a security sweep went far beyond rounding up just protesters on the streets, snatching up rights activists and journalists, as well as pro-reform politicians. Rights groups and opposition figures in Iran have criticized the court proceedings, calling them a "show trial" and saying confessions are coerced.

The opposition says 69 people were killed in the crackdown, while the government has confirmed about 30 dead.

A Justice Department statement said the five sentenced to death were members of "terrorist and armed opposition groups," state television reported.

WORLD BRIEFS

90-year-old charged in Germany for Nazi-era crimes

BERLIN (AP)—A former SS sergeant who worked unnoticed for decades as a train-station manager was charged with 58 counts of murder Tuesday after a student doing undergraduate research uncovered his alleged involvement in a massacre of Jewish forced laborers. University of Vienna student Andreas Forster was working on a project about the slaying in a forest near the Austrian village of Deutsch Schuetzen when he stumbled across Adolf Storms' name in witness testimony. Forster then obtained files from federal archives in Berlin that enabled him to link the former sergeant to the massacre, his professor Walter Manoschek told The Associated Press.

Ship with 100 tourists stuck in Antarctic ice

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian icebreaker carrying over 100 tourists, scientists and journalists on a cruise around Antarctica was struggling to free itself from sea ice but was not in any danger, a shipping company said Tuesday. The Captain Khlebnikov icebreaker is about 5 miles (8 kilometers) from clear water near Snow Hill Island in the Weddell Sea, German Kuzin of the Far-eastern Shipping Company told Russia's Vesti 24 television. He said neither the ship nor the passengers faced any risks. The ship was trying to move slowly through the ice but the winds were too light to break up the ice pack, he said. An Argentine official said the ice would delay the ship's return by three to six days.

Environment

Three Guam Commands earn environment awards

SANTA RITA, Guam—Three Navy commands in Guam were cited for excellence when the Chief of Naval Operations announced Nov. 6 the recipients of the 2009 Navy Community Service Program Environmental/Stewardship awards.

The program recognizes commands for outstanding service that promotes good stewardship of environmental resources.

Commander, Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) 15 won in the small overseas category; U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Marianas won in the medium overseas category; and U.S. Naval Base Guam won in the large overseas category.

"Your caring and dedication in protecting our environment reflect yet another way in which our Navy is a global force for good," said Vice Adm. Michael Loose, deputy CNO for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, in the awards announcement.

Throughout the 2008-2009 award period, Sailors from all three commands partnered with island residents to tackle a wide range of community service projects that maintained, restored and protected the natural beauty and environmental conditions of Guam.

Eighty-six volunteers from COMSUBRON 15 contributed more than 700 hours to picking up trash at parks, roadsides, and school grounds at the village of Inarajan and other areas.

Cmdr. Melvin Underwood, community service coordinator for COMSUBRON 15, said winning the award four times in four years is a result of the command's continual efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.

"We take seriously the environmental impact as well as our operational readiness here," Underwood said. "Sustained superior performance is a point of pride for our squadron."

NAVFAC Marianas had 71 volunteers participate in similar projects during a span of 424 hours at Southern High School, Talofofo Elementary School, Harry S. Truman Elementary School, and other locations.

Builder 1st Class (SCW) William Hillberg, NAVFAC Marianas' community service coordinator, said the command's goal was to get out into the local and military communities as much as possible and educate people about the importance of saving energy and taking care of the environment. Hillberg said both sailors and civilian employees were willing to spend off-duty hours to support various projects.

"Every little bit you can do makes a difference," Hillberg said. "You have to start somewhere."

Sixty-three volunteers from Naval Base Guam collected more than 250 lbs of trash from their sister village of Agat and around the island, repainted faded walls and planted flowers at several schools, and conducted other projects during their 540 hours of volunteer service.

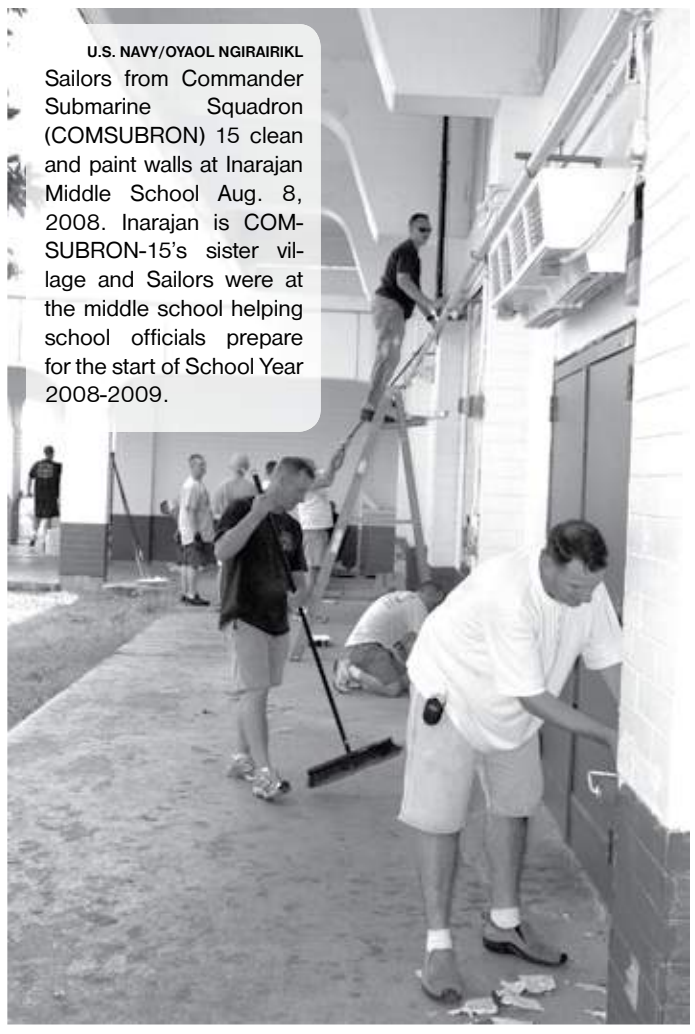
"We had a lot of people interested in keeping the island clean and the beaches clean," said Chief Master-at-Arms (SW/AW) Jason Smith, community service coordinator for Naval Base Guam. "Thanks to all the volunteers who devoted their time, and thanks to their families who also came out to do this. It was a tremendous effort by everyone." ***(USN)***

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Jinelies Serrano Cuevas, of U.S. Naval Base Guam, clears overgrown brush and weeds outside Sanctuary Inc. March 14, 2009. Cuevas and other Navy and Air Force volunteers participated in volunteer work around the island as part of the governor of Guam's Serve Guam Commission monthly projects.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Jennifer Farley, a natural resources specialist from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, hands out a prize of ifit seeds to students at Harry S. Truman Elementary School, after they answered questions about the environment April 21, 2009.



U.S. NAVY/OYAOL NGIRAIRIKL

Sailors from Commander Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) 15 clean and paint walls at Inarajan Middle School Aug. 8, 2008. Inarajan is COMSUBRON-15's sister village and Sailors were at the middle school helping school officials prepare for the start of School Year 2008-2009.

Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management meeting

The public is invited to the upcoming annual general meeting of the Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management. The conference/science presentations will occur at the indoor auditorium of the American Memorial Park on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Each presentation is scheduled for approximately 20 minutes with a five-minute question and answers session to follow.

Scheduled speakers and topics include:

■ **Michael Trianni**, M.Sc., Natural Resources Management, Fisheries Program supervisor and **Michael Tenorio**, Environmental Science, fisheries biologist, B.Sc.; CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife: "*Evaluation of the Recovery of surf redfish in harvested areas on Saipan.*"

■ **Ronnie Rogers**, B.A., Anthropology, M.A. Geography, CNMI Archeologist, CNMI Division of Historic Preservation: *"Development of Underwater Archaeology Capabilities at HPO: Recent Accomplishments and Planned Projects."*

■ **Valrick Welch**, project manager, Aquaculture Science and Self-Reliance Project, San Vicente Elementary School, et al (listed below): *"2008 Summer Science Camp Activities and School Site Mariculture Project."*

■ **Herman C**. **Tudela**, CNMI Division of Historic Preservation, "*Traditional Resource Stewardship*.

■ **Dr**. **Gary Denton**, Ph.D., environmental toxicologist and director, Water & Environment Research Institute, University of Guam: *"What's in Your Storm Drain?"*

■ **Don A**. **Farrell**, B.A, Biology, with an Emphasis in Marine Biology. "*A Discussion on the Influence of Island Natural History Elements on the Arrival of our Island's First Indigenous Population, the Chamorros*."

■ **Dr**. **Roger Goodwill**, D.A., Marine Biologist and chairman, Biological Sciences Department, Brigham Young University, Hawaii: "*A Brief Update on Current Biology Projects in the CNMI*."

■ **Mike Tripp**, Pharmacist, PADI instructor, and president, Mike Tripp Productions: "*Tinian Discovery Summer Camp, 2009*."

San Vicente Science Summer Camp Instructors:

■ *Horticulture*: Rick Gramlich and TeMary Gramlich

■ *Media*: Justin Benson, Erik Engelskjen, and Theresa Camacho

■ *Physical Science:* Alex Mercado, and Liz Van Dell

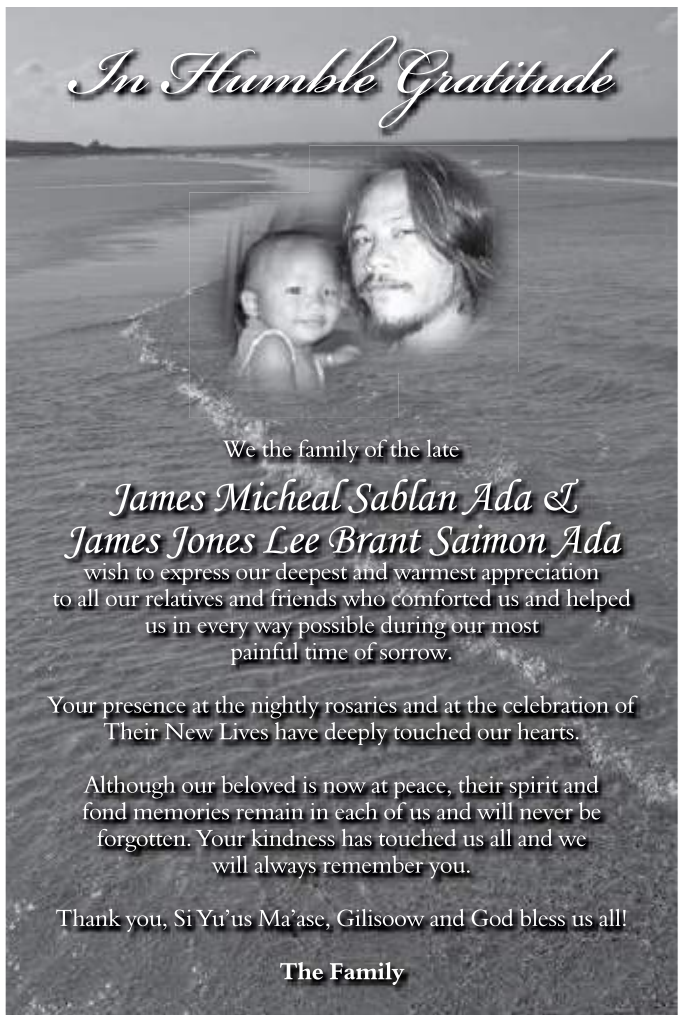
■ *Chemistry:* Carleen Saures, and Rufina Seman

■ *Drawing Science:* Rhonda Camacho, and Marsha Arriola

■ *Native Medicine:* Dr. Manny Borja, Rose Adams, Lino Olopai, Manny Borja, Rosa Warakai, Jose S. Roppul, Valerio Mality, and John Peter Lisua

■ *Marine Science:* Alan Davis, Fe Davis, Barbara Macduff, John Furey, Resne Wong, and Arthur Welch.

For more information contact John Furey at jfurey@saipan.com, or call (670) 234-5103 (seven-ring answering machine). ***(PR)***


In Humble Gratitude
We the family of the late
James Micheal Sablan Ada &
James Jones Lee Brant Saimon Ada
wish to express our deepest and warmest appreciation
to all our relatives and friends who comforted us and helped
us in every way possible during our most
painful time of sorrow.
Your presence at the nightly rosaries and at the celebration of
Their New Lives have deeply touched our hearts.
Although our beloved is now at peace, their spirit and
fond memories remain in each of us and will never be
forgotten. Your kindness has touched us all and we
will always remember you.
Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Gilisoow and God bless us all!
The Family

Life & Style

Sarah Palin coy about 2012 run, but door is open

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin said in an interview broadcast Tuesday that a 2012 presidential bid is "not on my radar," but wouldn't rule out playing some role in the next presidential election.

"My ambition, if you will, my desire is to help our country in whatever role that may be, and I cannot predict what that will be, what doors will be open in the year 2012," she told Barbara Walters.

When asked whether she'd play a major role, Palin replied that "if people will have me, I will."

Palin is making the rounds to promote her new book, "Going Rogue," which came out Tuesday. On Monday, she appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Palin said she's gotten plenty of offers during the past few months, including to open up her family for a reality show, that she has rejected. She also said she wasn't sure whether a talk show would be best for her family.

"I'd probably rather write than talk," she told Walters.

The former Alaska governor said she'd rate President Barack Obama's performance a 4 out of 10. She criticized the president for his handling of the economy and for "dithering" on national security questions.

"There are a lot of decisions being made that I — and probably the majority of Americans — are not impressed with right now," she said on ABC. She said Obama's Nobel Peace Prize was "premature."

Palin told Walters she has ruled out an appearance on Letterman's late night TV show. "I don't think that I'd want to boost his ratings," she said. "I do want him to sell my book, though I hope he keeps it up."

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AP
In this photo released by ABC, former Alaska Governor and Republican Vice-Presidential candidate Sarah Palin, left, is photographed with ABC's Barbara Walters, at a New York City hotel, Friday, Nov. 13, 2009.

The title of Palin's book refers to a phrase John McCain's campaign used to describe his vice presidential running mate going off message. In the book, she criticizes the people who ran McCain's campaign and says she wished she had been allowed to speak more freely. But she told Walters the outcome probably would not have been different if she had.

"The economy tanked," she said. "(The) electorate was ready, sincerely, for change."

On the controversy about the $150,000 spent on her wardrobe by the campaign, Palin said there was a double standard: No one ever questions male candidates where their shoes or suits came from, she said. In the end, she added: "The clothes all went back. They were never my clothes."

Nicolas Cage sued by former money manager

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nicolas Cage is being sued by his former business manager, who claims lavish spending, not his advice, is to blame for the actor's financial problems.

Samuel J. Levin filed a countersuit in Beverly Hills on Nov. 12, less than a month after the "National Treasure" star filed a $20 million lawsuit against Levin for fraud and claimed he had led him toward financial ruin.

Levin's suit says he tried to warn Cage when he was hired in 2001 that Cage was outspending even his large Hollywood paychecks. He is seeking a declaration that he acted properly, didn't excessively charge Cage for his services, and is owed $129,000 for work he did after he was fired in 2008.

The filing states Levin enacted a plan that resulted in Cage selling a dozen automobiles and a $1.6 million comic book collection.

Marty Singer, Cage's attorney, said the claims made in the countersuit were absurd.

He said it was a breach of privacy for Levin to release details about Cage's asset sales. In addition, Levin has been paid $1.3 million in the past 18 months, Singer said.

Cage is facing tough financial times and has been forced to sell some of his property, according to his original court filing against Levin. The Internal Revenue Service has filed more than $6.6 million in tax liens against the actor this year, records show.

Levin claims he advised Cage years ago that he would need to earn $30 million a year to maintain his lifestyle. The lawsuit states he warned Cage not to buy a castles in England and Bavaria.

Referring to Cage by his birth surname of Coppola, Levin's lawsuit states the actor in 2007 alone bought $33 million in property, 22 automobiles and nearly 50 pieces of expensive jewelry, art and other exotic items.

Zhang considers war drama, romance as next project

HONG KONG (AP)—Looking for a new project after finishing a comedy, Zhang Yimou is considering adaptations of novels set against China's Cultural Revolution and the Japanese invasion in World War II, his assistant said Wednesday.

The Chinese director is wrapping up an adaptation of Joel and Ethan Coen's 1984 movie "Blood Simple." Zhang's comedy about the owner of a Chinese noodle shop whose plan to kill his cheating wife and her lover is scheduled to be released in China on Dec. 11.

For his next movie, Zhang is considering four or five possible projects, Zhang's assistant, Pang Liwei, told The Associated Press in a phone interview Wednesday. Pang would only reveal two of the possible projects—two adaptations of Chinese-language novels.

The source material are Ai Mi's Internet-published novel "Shan Zha Shu Zhi Lian"—or "The Love of the Hawthorn Tree"—and Yan Geling's "Jin Ling Shi San Chai" or "The 13 Women of Nanjing," Pang said.

Ai's book is about the romance between a young woman and a young man from different class backgrounds during China's ultra-leftist 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution, when families from wealthy and politically incorrect backgrounds were persecuted. Yan's novel is about 13 sex workers who volunteered to replace university students as escorts for invading Japanese soldiers in 1937.

Pang said Zhang will make a final decision on his next movie based on how far the script and casting for each of the projects he's considering is coming along.

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2012
Friday 4:05 7:05 10:10
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 10:10
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Never before has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, so many religions, scientists, and governments. A global cataclysm brings an end to the world and tells of the heroic struggle of the survivors.

A Christmas Carol
Friday 4:25 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:00
Jim Carrey, Robin Wright Penn
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

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Friday 4:20 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
George Clooney, Jeff Bridges
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

The Fourth Kind
Friday 4:00 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:10 4:00 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:10 4:00 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:10
Milla Jovovich, Will Patton
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Michael Jackson's This Is It
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:35
Saturday 1:00 4:30 7:15 9:35
Sunday 1:00 4:30 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:15
Michael Jackson
Musical, Documentary • Rated PG

The Box
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Cameron Diaz, James Marsden
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Astro Boy
Friday 4:15
Saturday 1:15 4:15
Sunday 1:15 4:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15
Freddie Highmore, Nicolas Cage
Action, Comedy • Rated PG

Vampire's Assistant
Friday 7:25 10:00
Saturday 7:25 10:00
Sunday 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 7:25
John C. Reilly, Chris Mssoglia
Adventure, Fantasy, Children • Rated PG 13

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A model dancer gone: 3 stars advance to finals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Model Joanna Krupa is leaving "Dancing With the Stars."

The Poland-born beauty was eliminated from the hit ABC show Tuesday.

She and professional partner Derek Hough scored an impressive 81 out of 90 points for their performances on Monday's episode of the hit ABC show, but fans failed to keep the couple afloat with their votes.

Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine which contestant is eliminated each week.

Head judge Len Goodman said Krupa and Hough were the "most consistent of all of our couples" throughout the season, regularly landing near the top of the leaderboard.

Singer Mya, reality star Kelly Osbourne and entertainer Donny Osmond will compete for the show's title and accompanying mirrorball trophy next week.

In this Monday Nov. 16, 2009 photo provided by the ABC, Joanna Krupa and Derek Hough perform on the set of Dancing with the Stars in Los Angeles. AP

Elton John says he's back on his feet

NEW YORK (AP)—Elton John says he's back on his feet after being sidelined for the flu and an E. coli bacterial infection.

The entertainer spoke about his recovery before Monday's annual benefit for the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which honored former President Bill Clinton and Sharon Stone among others.

"The worst thing about being in the hospital was that, actually, it's the first time I've been in bed for about nine days in the whole of my life, except for maybe when I had my tonsils out," he said. "So, I was all right. I had a good rest; I didn't expect it. The worst thing was having to cancel shows. I hate that. But I'm back on my feet and I'm bouncing around now."

The event, entitled "An Enduring Vision," honored Clinton, Evelyn and Leonard Lauder, Lily Safra and Stone.

Stone called John "a legendary performer and ... spectacular person."

"(He's) not always easy because he's true and honest and he really is passionate and he really does care," she said. "There isn't any time that I wouldn't show up for him. He's the real thing."

John

The Elton John AIDS Foundation in part aims to fund innovative HIV prevention programs and to eliminate stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS.

John said the current economic crisis makes his work harder, but stressed that the need to continue in the fight against the disease.

"We are in a bad time economically and everybody's vying for attention ... we mustn't let AIDS get onto the back seat," he said. "It's very important that it stays in the forefront of our attention because it's a disease that's not going away. In fact it's really increasing in a lot of areas."

The evening's honorees also stressed the need to continue raising funds.

"Look down at your shoes," Stone said to the audience inside. "If you're wearing those shoes, you've got twice as much to give."

New Sistine Chapel books to come out in Italy

VATICAN CITY (AP)—A series of four books presented Tuesday at the Vatican seeks to explain how Michelangelo and other artists translated the Bible into images to produce in the Sistine Chapel some of the world's most renowned frescoes.

The first volume focuses on Michelangelo's ceiling and its scenes from the book of Genesis and the creation of the world. Vatican Museums director Antonio Paolucci said the volume offers a "basic code" to understand the symbols and scenes that adorn the room where popes are elected.

"Everybody knows the Sistine Chapel, but how many can recognize the scenes?" Paolucci said Tuesday at a book launch just steps away from the Sistine Chapel. He said the book succeeds in clarifying "the infinite forest of symbols that are all linked to each other" in the ceiling that the Renaissance master painted between 1508-12.

The series is called "The Painted Word" and is published by the Vatican Museums' publisher along with Italian daily Il Sole 24Ore. The first installment, a coffee-table volume rich in photos, comes out on Friday. Two more will follow focusing on the wall paintings by 15th-century artists such as Sandro Botticelli, and the series will end Dec. 11 with a volume on Michelangelo's Last Judgment.

Fox's Major Garrett gets interview with Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama will give an interview to Fox News Channel's Major Garrett, perhaps signaling a thaw in relations between the network and administration. The White House confirmed Tuesday that Garrett will be included among a round of network interviews that the president is giving Wednesday in Beijing. Garrett also posted news of the interview on Twitter.

Fox and the administration have been in a public fight since former White House communications director Anita Dunn said the network acted like the research or communications arm of the Republican Party. The president pointedly avoided Fox when he gave a round of interviews to Sunday shows about his health care plan.

Garrett, Fox's senior White House correspondent and a CNN reporter before moving to Fox, will have 10 minutes with the president. Other network correspondents traveling with the president—Chip Reid of CBS, Chuck Todd of NBC and Ed Henry of CNN—will also get interviews. ABC gave up its slot when Jake Tapper spoke to Obama earlier.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Law firm sues Rod Stewart for $3.3 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A prominent entertainment law firm is suing Rod Stewart for $3.3 million in legal fees it claims he owes. Glaser, Weil, Fink, Jacobs, Howard & Shapiro filed the case Tuesday in Los Angeles. The firm has numerous high-profile clients and recently won judgments for architect Frank Gehry and television host Bob Barker. The lawsuit claims Stewart owes for work on three cases, including one involving the singer's cancellation of a December 2000 show in Las Vegas. A federal jury decided Stewart owed the Rio hotel-casino $2 million for canceling the show. The firm also represented the Rock and Rock Hall of Famer in a trademark infringement case and a lawsuit filed by a concert promoter. Stewart's manager was not immediately available for comment.

Broadway revival of 'Oleanna' to close Jan. 3

NEW YORK (AP)—The Broadway revival of David Mamet's "Oleanna" is folding after a 97-performance run. Producer Jeffrey Finn says the production, which stars Bill Pullman and Julia Stiles, will close Jan. 3 at the Golden Theatre. The play opened in New York on Oct. 11 after a successful summer engagement at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. "Oleanna" concerns a power struggle between a university professor, portrayed by Pullman, and a female student, the role played by Stiles.

Kander and Ebb have a new musical—off-Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—There will be a new Kander and Ebb musical—off-Broadway. Vineyard artistic director Doug Aibel says "The Scottsboro Boys" will have its world premiere March 10 at the small nonprofit theater. Previews begin Feb. 12. "The Scottsboro Boys" concerns the infamous case from the 1930s in which a group of black youths were unjustly accused of attacking two white women. No casting yet, but Susan Stroman will direct. The books is by David Thompson. Composer John Kander and lyricist Fred Ebb have been responsible for some of Broadway's most memorable shows including "Cabaret," "Chicago" and "Kiss of the Spider Woman." The score for "The Scottsboro Boys" was written before Ebb died in 2004.

Guilt mars comfort couple finds in each other's arms

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Is there anything wrong with having a lover solely for the purpose of sex? He is grieving for his late wife (my best friend), and I am separated from my husband. We're both lonely and have supported each other through our pain. A few weeks ago we decided to become lovers.

We both have our eyes open, and we don't expect anything out of this except a friendship with benefits. I am satisfying his needs, and he is making me remember the woman I used to be before I was emotionally beaten down by my husband.

I see myself as enjoying the best of both worlds: I'm finding myself again, and I don't have to answer to anyone but me. So, Abby, what do you think? I guess I'm looking for some validation for our selfishness.

FRIEND WITH BENEFITS

DEAR FRIEND: Selfishness? You are both consenting adults. You can do what you want. Many successful relationships have begun with two people supporting each other through a painful period—and I don't consider that "selfish" at all.

What I AM having trouble understanding is why you haven't begun divorce proceedings from your emotionally abusive husband. Once that's started, you should have no reason to have any second thoughts at all.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 25 years died last year. How long do I need to maintain ties with his family? Must I still give gifts at Christmas and birthdays to all his siblings, nieces and nephews?

What I need to know is how to ease out of this without offending them. His parents are still alive, and the most I want to do is send a card at Christmas.

READY TO MOVE ON IN CANADA

DEAR READY TO MOVE ON: No law says that you "have to" maintain a gift-giving relationship with your late husband's relatives. It would be nice, however, to send something to the nieces and nephews—if only a few dollars and some kind words included in a card.

The message that speaks loudest to me in your letter is the one you did not directly put into words—that after 25 years of marriage to your husband, you had no meaningful connection with his family. An acceptable way to begin stepping back would be to explain to them that, because of your reduced circumstances, you are no longer able to send the usual gifts and will be sending cards during these holidays.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for all the great advice you have given over the years. I have enjoyed reading your column since I can remember.

When I was in high school nine years ago, I gave birth to a beautiful baby whom I placed in an open adoption with a great family. I am now in my 20s.

I find that if I mention the adoption, the conversation sometimes becomes awkward. I don't like to mention it with acquaintances because it's something very personal and I am somewhat sensitive about it.

When people ask me if I have children, what would be the appropriate response?

BIRTH MOTHER IN MINNESOTA

DEAR BIRTH MOTHER: You are under no obligation to give chapter and verse about your personal history to anyone who is only an acquaintance. If you are asked if you have children, just say no because you are not raising any.

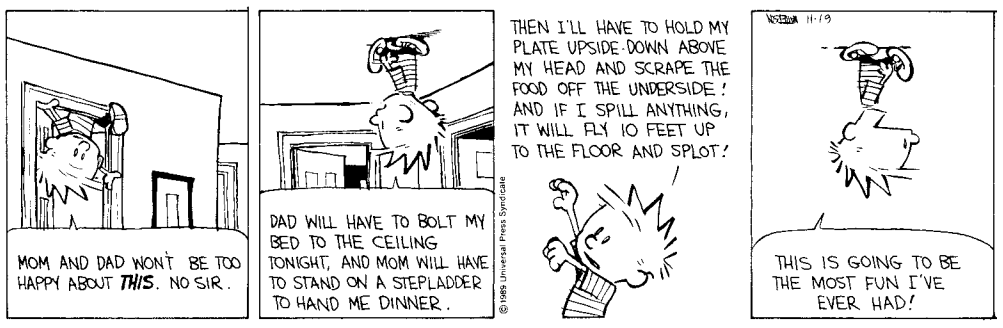
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM AND DAD WON'T BE TOO HAPPY ABOUT THIS. NO SIR.
DAD WILL HAVE TO BOLT MY BED TO THE CEILING TONIGHT, AND MOM WILL HAVE TO STAND ON A STEPLADDER TO HAND ME DINNER.
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THEN I'LL HAVE TO HOLD MY PLATE UPSIDE-DOWN ABOVE MY HEAD AND SCRAPE THE FOOD OFF THE UNDERSIDE! AND IF I SPILL ANYTHING, IT WILL FLY 10 FEET UP TO THE FLOOR AND SPLOT!
THIS IS GOING TO BE THE MOST FUN I'VE EVER HAD!

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By Jim Davis

LIZ, HOW ABOUT DINNER TONIGHT?
JIM DAVIS 11-19
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I KNOW A PLACE WITH A GREAT B-U-F-F-E-T
MAKE IT A TABLE FOR T-H-R-E-E
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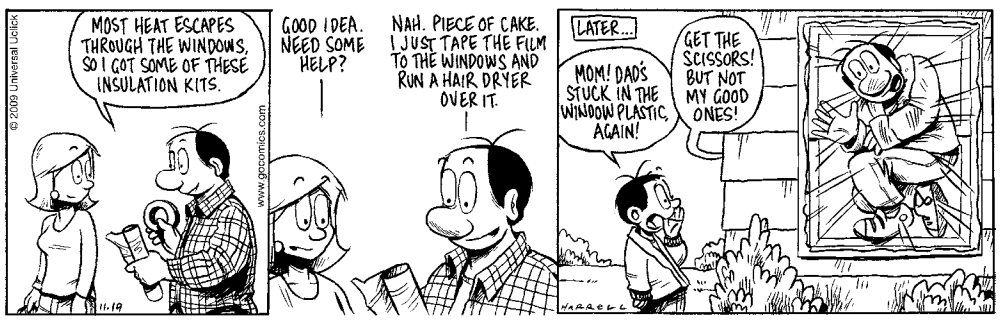
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset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GET THE SCISSORS! BUT NOT MY GOOD ONES!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

So, you're single?
11/19 www.gocomics.com
Glenn McCoy
Yes. I guess I just haven't met the right guy yet.
Well, then you should meet my buddy, Eno.
AND HIS FREAKISHLY HUGE PIMPLE.
THANKS.
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CROSSWORD

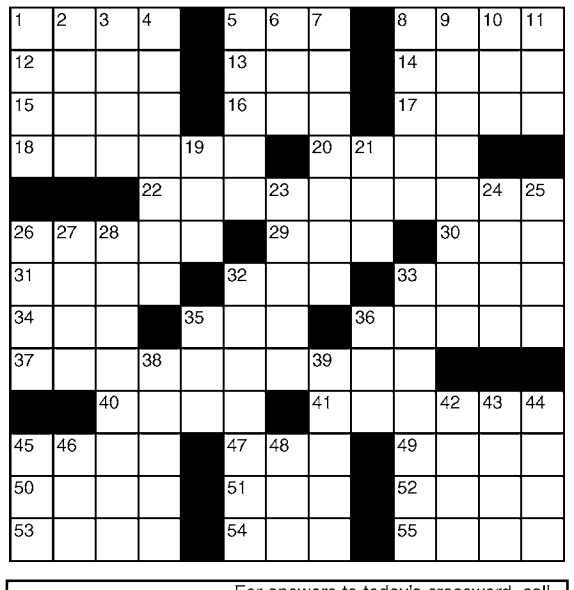
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Church service
5 Life story, for short
8 Money
12 Norway's capital
13 Bobby of hockey
14 Out of the storm
15 Authentic
16 "My Gal —"
17 Charged bits
18 Tribe known for their rugs
20 Swiss river
22 Visiting casually
26 Happy companion?
29 Praise in verse
30 Historic time
31 "Sad to say, ..."
32 Pair
33 Advanced math
34 Zero
35 "Eureka!"
36 Alan Ladd classic
37 Failing
40 Werewolf's inspiration
41 Extremely tiny
45 God, in Guadalajara
47 Unsettling noise
49 Sneaky trick
50 Top-notch
51 Listending abbr.
52 Summertime desserts
53 Purchases
54 Shad product
55 Immediately following

DOWN
1 Sunup time
2 Cruising
3 Czech, Serb or Pole
4 Comforts
5 — buddy
6 George's brother
7 Florida tourist mecca
8 Egypt's capital
9 Skin cream ingredient
10 Congress addr.
11 "— a real nowhere man, ..."
19 Behar of "The View"
21 Time of your life?
23 Davenport dweller
24 Sportscaster Andrews
25 Anger
26 "Phooey!"
27 A little of everything
28 Certain breakup payment
32 Roaring sound
33 Add
35 Past
36 Prepared
38 Face parts
39 Take to the floor
42 Cinderella's horses, really
43 Holm oak
44 "— Si Bon"
45 Slight amount
46 Debtor's letters
48 "Who am — judge?"

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kerri Strug, 32; Jodie Foster, 47; Meg Ryan, 48; Allison Janney, 50

Happy Birthday: Don't let anyone push you into something you aren't ready for or sure about. Keep things simple and stay in control. Stability will be required of you. Love may be on the line if you haven't been attentive or your feelings have changed. Reevaluate your financial, personal and emotional situation and stir things up a bit. Your numbers are 5, 14, 17, 21, 27, 30, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Discuss your plans and to find out as much as you can about a project that interests you or about someone you want to get to know better. A job opportunity will develop if you express your eagerness to take on whatever task is required. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Observe what everyone around you is up to. The experience and wisdom offered will help you make a vital decision concerning your beliefs. Look at past decisions and circumstances to help you make the right choice now. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Sort out any differences you have with a partner or someone you are planning to do something with before you start down that path. Emotional issues will surface if money comes into the picture. Be upfront. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Right now you are overreacting to everything going on around you. Instead of fretting, get to the bottom of what's bothering you. If change is necessary, stop fighting it and you will see how much easier it is to get ahead. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): The barter system will work well for you if you are a fair negotiator. You can both win and can form a good long-term partnership if you work together. You may feel like celebrating but don't let your emotional exuberance cost you. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let your emotions take over your personal life. Something bigger and better is just around the corner but don't let anyone in on what is happening. Remain mysterious for now. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Talking about what you want to do and actually doing it are not the same thing. Get busy presenting, promoting and pushing. Your plan is feasible but keeping it to yourself isn't going to amount to much. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let uncertainty stop you. Live up to what's expected of you and you will realize your true potential. Success is built on failures, so shoot for the stars and don't look back. You have what it takes. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You have the drive, discipline and determination to turn your plans into reality but, if you let someone interfere or sidetrack you, a costly mistake will be made. You can be successful if you stick to the task at hand and have the confidence to go it alone. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stay on top of things by taking care of matters yourself. As soon as you rely on someone else, a problem will develop. Dealing with institutions will be stressful if you are unprepared. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone who has caught your emotional interest will puzzle you. Don't let your heart rule your head. Proceed with caution and don't make promises that may cause you legal or financial grief. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your erratic behavior will confuse people. Don't rely on things being as they appear or on people doing what they say. Say as little as possible and you'll keep everyone guessing while you perfect what you are working on. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You embrace the new and perfect the old. You are willing to do whatever is required to reach your goals and prove your ability.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2	5	4			8	
7								
			8					6
				1		8		7
6			2	9	4			5
5		4		8				
1					8			
								2
	4			6	7	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	4	1	5	2	6	7	3
2	6	5	7	4	3	8	9	1
3	1	7	6	8	9	2	5	4
9	3	2	8	1	4	5	6	7
5	8	1	2	7	6	4	3	9
4	7	6	9	3	5	1	8	2
1	5	8	3	2	7	9	4	6
6	4	3	5	9	1	7	2	8
7	2	9	4	6	8	3	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IT'S OK TO BE NICE — Solution: 7 letters

G	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	D	T	F	I	L
K	E	A	T	N	E	M	T	I	M	M	O	C	(A)	I
I	E	N	I	N	B	P	H	S	E	R	O	H	(C)	V
N	N	D	E	C	A	E	R	O	E	M	E	H	(T)	I
D	C	L	G	R	O	R	H	E	P	B	L	O	(S)	C
E	O	I	U	U	O	N	G	A	S	E	B	N	C	O
P	U	N	T	F	E	U	S	R	V	E	A	E	O	N
E	R	G	D	S	T	S	S	I	A	I	N	S	O	T
N	A	I	F	N	I	C	T	R	D	I	O	T	P	R
D	G	F	I	O	E	U	E	R	P	E	S	R	E	I
A	E	T	N	T	G	F	R	P	O	L	R	E	R	B
B	N	A	E	I	F	T	E	T	S	P	E	A	A	U
L	T	A	W	O	D	N	E	D	L	E	P	H	T	T
E	M	P	A	T	H	E	T	I	C	A	R	U	E	E
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Acts, Altruistic, Behavior, Best, Character, Chores, Civil, Commitment, Compassionate, Considerate, Contribute, Cooperate, Defend, Dependable, Empathetic, Encourage, Endow, Fine, Generous, Gift, Grant, Guest, Handling, Help, Honest, Hope, Kind, Lift, Manners, Offer, Personable, Present, Raise, Respectful, Selfless, Support, Team

Yesterday's Answer: Purpose

SALE: The topics of Wonderword for Kids! appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, this book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a Notice of Intent to dissolve Neo Fashion Inc., a corporation which is registered in Saipan, has been delivered to the Registrar of Corporations.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

I'LL ROLLING I'LL

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Find today's solution in this section

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NELLY B. DELA ROSA-UNTALAN, Petitioner, v. EMMANUEL C. UNTALAN, Respondent.	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 09-0646 SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 10th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII, Plaintiff, vs. JOAQUIN S. REYES and MAGDALENA B. SALAS, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0014 NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 1, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 011 G 692, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011G14, the original of which was recorded 03 DEC 93 as Document No. 93-4182 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on November 30, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill, Isa Drive, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, November 3, 2009.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff
BANK OF HAWAII

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Suns continue strong start with win at Rockets

HOUSTON (AP)— The Phoenix Suns recovered from a slow start to get a 111-105 win over the Houston Rockets in the NBA on Tuesday, rallying from a double-digit deficit to victory for the fifth time this season.

Amare Stoudemire scored 23 points and Steve Nash had 16 assists for the NBA's early-season pacesetter.

The Suns extended a strong recent record at Houston and remain the only team to reach 100 points in all their games this season.

For the Rockets, Carl Landry scored a career-high 27 points off the bench.

AP

Phoenix Suns' Amare Stoudemire drives to the basket for a layup over Houston Rockets' Carl Landry in the second quarter during a NBA basketball game on Tuesday Nov. 17, 2009 in Houston.

Lakers 106, Pistons 93

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 40 points for the 100th time in his career, and Los Angeles avoided a rare three-game losing streak by downing Detroit.

Andrew Bynum had 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who took a 28-point lead before surviving Detroit's impressive fourth-quarter rally to avoid their first three-game skid in nearly two years, following losses to Denver and Houston.

Bryant didn't appear to be slowed by his strained groin while scoring 27 points in the middle two quarters before reaching 40 on a 3-pointer with 19 seconds left. With four 40-point games already this season after getting just four all last year, Bryant trails only Wilt Chamberlain (271) and Michael Jordan (173) in 40-point games in NBA history.

For Detroit, Will Bynum scored 10 of his 24 points in the final period.

Nuggets 130, Raptors 112

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points to lead Denver over Toronto.

Anthony is the only player in the NBA to score at least 20 points in all of his team's games so far. He's topped 30 points seven times. He sat out the final quarter.

Reserve J.R. Smith finished with 29 for the Nuggets. After withstanding Smith's seven-game suspension and a six-game trip, the Nuggets weathered a determined Raptors team that was without forward Hedo Turkoglu (left hip) but didn't trail until midway through the third quarter.

Chris Bosh led Toronto with 13 points and 14 rebounds.

Thunder 100, Heat 87

In Miami, Kevin Durant scored 32 points as Oklahoma City continued its surprisingly strong start by downing Miami.

Russell Westbrook had 24 for the Thunder, which took control with an early 20-1 run and sealed it with a 14-2 burst in the third quarter. Jeff Green added 13 for Oklahoma City, who've won three straight on the road.

For Miami, Dwyane Wade finished with 22 points on 6 of 19 shooting.

The Thunder got off to a 6-32 start last year. This season, they're 6-5.

Bulls 101, Kings 87

In Sacramento, California, John Salmons scored 23 points to lift the Bulls to victory over Sacramento.

It was the first game with more than 100 points for Chicago, which entered with the NBA's third-worst shooting percentage. The Bulls shot 47 percent and made seven of 12 3-point shots.

Making only his fifth career start, Donte Greene scored 24 points for the Kings, who had won four straight.

Cavaliers 114, Warriors 108

In Cleveland, LeBron James had 31 points and 12 assists as Cleveland held off a gutsy effort by the undermanned Golden State.

J.J. Hickson added a career-high 21 points for the Cavaliers, who lost Jamario Moon to injury and were without Shaquille O'Neal and Anderson Varejao.

Injuries and illness had stripped the Warriors of seven players and had the league-minimum eight available, but Monta Ellis got 23 points as they pushed Cleveland all the way.

Hornets 110, Clippers 102

In New Orleans, Jeff Bower picked up his first coaching win in New Orleans' defeat of Los Angeles.

David West had 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets, who notched their first win in four.

With Chris Paul out, point guards Darren Collison and Bobby Brown scored 12 apiece and combined for 11 assists.

For the Clippers, Al Thornton scored 30 points.

Bower moved to the sideline while keeping his general manager role when Byron Scott was fired on Thursday.

Pacers 91, Nets 83

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, the hosts slumped to an 0-11 record with a loss to Indiana.

Danny Granger scored 22 points and Roy Hibbert tied a career high with 19 for the Pacers.

Indiana extended their winning streak to five and can continue their turnaround from an 0-3 start Wednesday when they host another struggling team, the New York Knicks.

Chris Douglas-Roberts scored a career-high 27 points for the Nets, who head to Milwaukee on Wednesday, still a long way from the record 17-game opening skids owned by the Miami Heat and Los Angeles Clippers.

Royals' Greinke wins AL Cy Young Award

NEW YORK (AP)— When the phone rang, Zack Greinke let it go—he didn't recognize the number. Only after listening to the voice mail did he call back and find out he'd won the American League Cy Young Award.

The Kansas City Royals ace easily beat out Felix Hernandez for the honor Tuesday after a spectacular season short on wins but long on domination. Winning left the extremely shy Greinke with mixed emotions.

"Back in Orlando, I haven't really got a whole lot of attention from people, which has been nice," he said. "So I hope it doesn't get that way, where everyone is like, `Oh, hey, Zack, hi.'"

He'd prefer to remain anonymous when he's not on the mound. He's not looking forward to being introduced at banquets as "Cy Young Award winner Zack Greinke" for the rest of his life.

"In that way, it's kind of like a negative for me," he said.

It's been quite a turnaround for Greinke, who led the AL in losses in 2005 and quit baseball for six weeks the following year after being diagnosed with a social anxiety disorder.

Greinke went 16-8 with a major league-low 2.16 ERA this season and received 25 of 28 first-place votes and three seconds for 134 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Hernandez, 19-5 with a 2.49 ERA for the Seattle Mariners, drew two firsts, 23 seconds and one third for 80 points.

"I thought it was going to be real close between the two of us," Greinke said.

Detroit's Justin Verlander was third with the remaining first-place vote and 14 points, followed by the Yankees' CC Sabathia (13) and Toronto's Roy Halladay (11).

"Greinke deserved it. Before the season was over, I said my vote was for him," Hernandez said in Venezuela.

"This has taught me that I need to be perfect, I will prepare myself to be stronger next season. I will need a superb year because just a good one, it's not enough," he said.

The NL winner will be announced Thursday.

Despite what he's overcome, Greinke doesn't view himself as a role model.

AP

This is an Aug. 19, 2009, file photo showing Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Zack Greinke delivering a pitch against the Chicago White Sox in the first inning during, a baseball game in Chicago.

"I really don't like having a bunch of attention, so even if I did see myself in that light, I don't do anything about it," he said. "I'm real uncomfortable doing stuff like that, to be around people and doing stuff like that," he said.

He fidgeted a bit and spoke softly during a series of telephone conference calls and a video linkup from a studio in Orlando, Fla.

Even before winning, this was sure to be a big week for Greinke. He is getting married on Saturday to high school girlfriend Emily Kuchar, a former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader, and then is heading to Hawaii for a three-week honeymoon.

The 26-year-old right-hander was the sixth overall pick in the 2002 amateur draft. He made his major league debut in 2004 and got hit hard the next year. After leaving spring training in February 2006 to combat his anxiety, he worked his way back to the majors by late September.

Greinke was 7-7 the following year and 13-10 in 2008 before his breakout season. Greinke's ERA was the lowest in the AL since Pedro Martinez's 1.74 ERA in 2000 and his 242 strikeouts were second in the league behind Verlander.

After speaking with a pair of pitchers on opposing teams—he wouldn't identify them—he credited an improved mental approach in which he put all his focus on each individual pitch he was throwing.

But he did think he had the best season. He said he had spoken with teammate Brian Bannister about his FIP—a new-age statistic called Fielding Independent Pitching, which is supposed to factor out defensive differences.

He allowed just 11 home runs this year - nine solo and two with one man on, according to STATS LLC. His victory total matched that of Arizona's Brandon Webb three years ago for the fewest by a starting pitcher to win a Cy Young Award in a non-shortened season and was the fewest by an AL starter to win in a full-length season.

Steve Carlton was the only Cy Young Award winner who pitched for a club that was worse. The Hall of Fame lefty was 27-10 with a 1.97 ERA for the 1972 Philadelphia Phillies, who went 59-97.

Kansas City, which tied for last place in the AL Central at 65-97, scored just 13 runs in his eight losses and 21 runs in his nine no-decisions. He failed to get a victory in six starts in which he allowed one run or none.

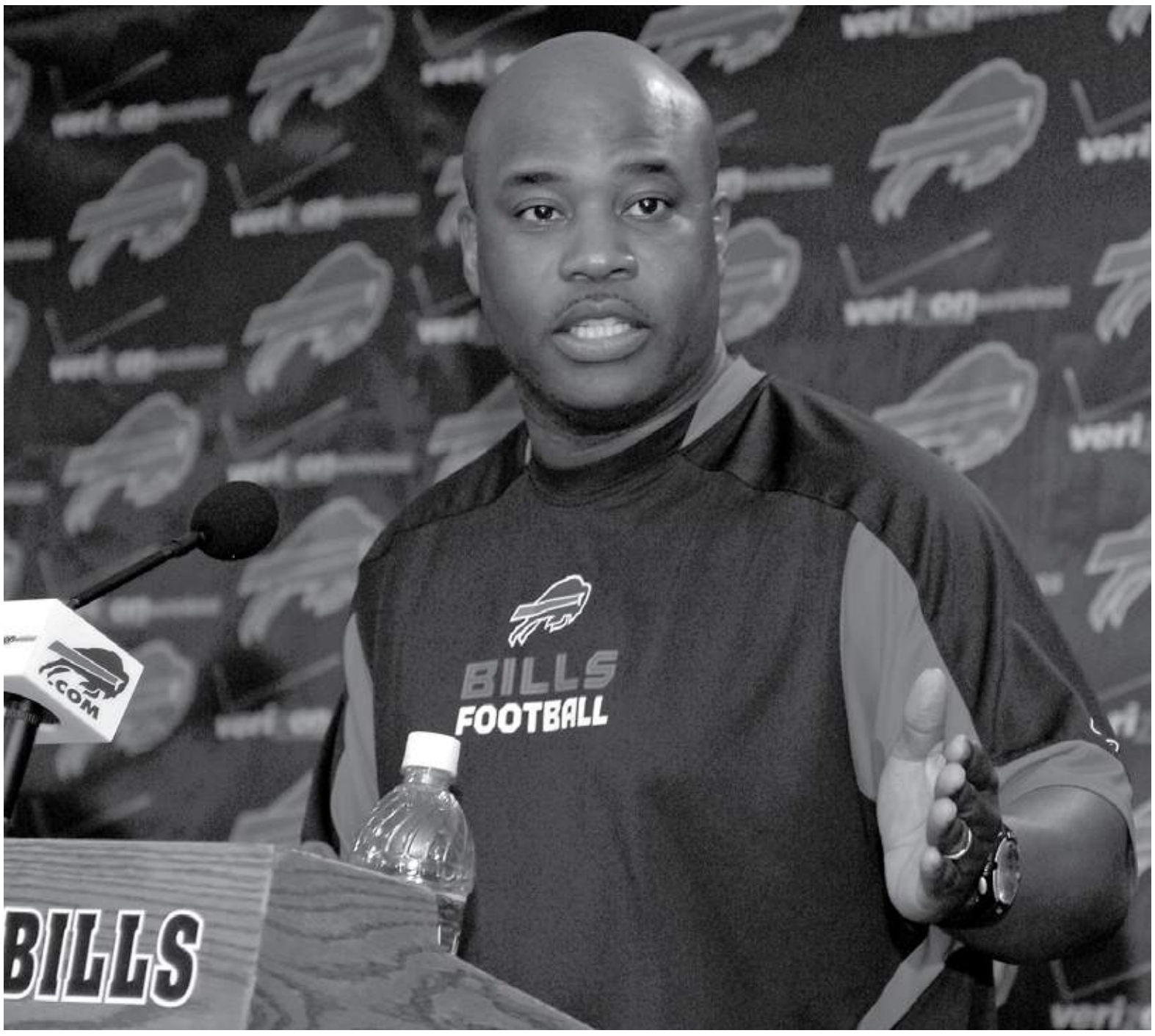
Greinke, who agreed to a $38 million, four-year contract last winter, received a $100,000 bonus for winning.

The first-place votes for Hernandez came from Chris Assenheimer of The Chronicle-Telegram in Elyria, Ohio, and Mark Feinsand of the Daily News in New York. Verlander's first-place vote was cast by Steve Kornacki of Booth Newspapers in Michigan.

For all the recognition, Greinke could have done without it.

"A lot of stuff going on today," he said, "when I usually just like doing nothing. But just part of life."

Fewell picked to replace Jauron as Bills coach



AP

Buffalo Bills defensive coordinator Perry Fewell speaks during a news conference where he was introduced as the NFL football team's new interim head coach at Bills headquarters in Orchard Park, N.Y., on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009.

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Perry Fewell shared a simple but blunt philosophy in taking over as the Buffalo Bills interim head coach after Dick Jauron was abruptly fired on Tuesday.

"Play like hell and win," Fewell said.

That's the plan and also the challenge for Fewell, following the defensive coordinator's promotion. He has seven games left in the season to prove that he's capable of turning around a struggling team and a franchise that's now on its fifth coach in nine years and in jeopardy of missing the playoffs for a 10th straight season.

It starts on Sunday, when the Bills (3-6) travel to play at Jacksonville.

Fewell then showed he's smart enough to not make any guarantees, when asked to assess how much he can do to fix an offense that's sputtered for most of the season despite the presence of Terrell Owens.

"We are who we are," Fewell said, adding he'll wait until Wednesday to announce whether quarterback Trent Edwards or backup Ryan Fitzpatrick will start this weekend. "We have that identity. We're going to try to give a little spark, but we are who we are."

Bills owner Ralph Wilson prompted the shakeup, which caught Fewell and several players by surprise. The move came during the players' day off and after Buffalo stumbled out of its bye week to fall further out of contention with a 41-17 loss at Tennessee last weekend.

Wilson described his decision to change coaches as a difficult one, but one "for the best interest of our team."

"I really don't have anything to say," was all Jauron would say when reached on his cell phone by The Associated Press.

In electing to promote Fewell, Wilson credited the assistant for having done "a great job with our defense and demonstrated excellent leadership skills," while noting the players and staff have confidence in him.

Fewell is in his 12th NFL season, and fourth with Buffalo as the team's defensive coordinator, after being hired by Jauron, whose background is primarily on the defensive side. Fewell also becomes the team's first black head coach.

He was offered the job by Wilson, shortly after he and the coaching staff were informed by Jauron that he had been fired.

Fewell declined to discuss whether he's been given an opportunity to keep the job beyond this season, but called his promotion "the opportunity of a lifetime."

The Bills' defense under Fewell has shown a resilient quality, though the numbers don't always show it. The unit's best season under Fewell was last year, when it finished 14th in the NFL in yards allowed despite missing numerous players to injuries.

Things haven't been better on the injury front this season. The defense ranks 26th in the NFL yards allowed, but Fewell has made do with a unit that's played with as many as six regulars out of the lineup, including two starters on injured reserve.

The defense, which is allowing an average of 173 yards rushing, has been credited for keeping the Bills competitive. Buffalo has either led, been tied or been within a score of the lead entering the fourth quarter in all of its games except for a 38-10 loss at Miami on Oct. 4.

The trouble has been the inept offense that's averaging just over 15 points, is unsettled at quarterback and features an inexperienced line.

The Bills haven't generated 300 yards of offense in eight of nine games this season, including their past seven. They also haven't had a quarterback reach 200 yards passing since Edwards had 230 yards in a 33-20 win over Tampa Bay in Week 2.

So much for the spark Owens was supposed to provide after he signed a one-year $6.5 million contract in March, days after the receiver was released by Dallas.

Receiver Lee Evans expressed his support for Fewell, and doesn't mind his defensive background, saying "I don't think that plays into it."

"The way our defense is playing with all the injuries, it's a testament to him. They've done a great job of keeping us in games," Evans told The AP. "I think this is a great opportunity for him. ... I think he should try to stick with the things that made him the coach he is, rally the team and keep us on the same page."

Jauron has been on the hot seat ever since last season, after he led the Bills to their third consecutive 7-9 finish.

Expressing a need for continuity, Wilson elected at the time to retain Jauron. The Hall of Fame owner, however, noted that he was aware of Bills fans' dissatisfaction with the team, and warned that he wasn't going to be "complacent" in seeking improvements, particularly on offense.

Defensive end Chris Kelsay was shocked to learn of the move happening this late in the season, but not entirely surprised. Kelsay was well aware before the start of the season that changes were in store if the Bills faltered.

"I think everybody understood this was a big year and there was lots at stake," Kelsay told the AP, adding he maintains his respect for Jauron. "I feel a little responsible for it, and most players do. I feel like I let him down because we, as players, are the ones to blame."

NFL BRIEFS

Larry Johnson agrees to terms with Bengals

CINCINNATI (AP)—Larry Johnson might have his career up-and-running sooner than expected. The running back who was banished from Kansas City for bad behavior signed on for a backup role with the Cincinnati Bengals on Tuesday, giving the AFC North leaders depth for the rest of this season. He might not be watching for long. A day after coach Marvin Lewis referred to Johnson as an insurance policy in case of injury, he said it's possible the running back could play in some form Sunday in Oakland if starter Cedric Benson is still limited by a strained hip. "I'm not saying that it can't happen, I'm not saying that it will happen, but stay tuned," Lewis said, with Johnson sitting by his side. "He'd like to play, I know that. And we'll see what happens as we go through the week, as I said earlier, regarding Cedric with his injury." Johnson has his own goal for getting on the field: Dec. 27, when the Bengals play the Chiefs at Paul Brown Stadium. That could set up the second get-even game for a Bengals running back this season. Benson was carrying a grudge when he ran for a career-high 189 yards against his former Bears team on Oct. 25. Johnson is toting one, too. "I'd be lying if I said I ain't looking at that game as a game I want to definitely play in, but we take it a game at a time, one situation at a time," Johnson said. "I'm just trying to get on the field as of right now. If that happens, it'd be the best Christmas gift I can get." The Bengals waived defensive tackle Orien Harris to open a roster spot for Johnson, who knew he'd be listed fourth on the depth chart to start.

Polamalu questionable 'at best' for Chiefs

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers apparently won't be without injured safety Troy Polamalu for more than one game. The sigh of relief began in coach Mike Tomlin's office and no doubt spread throughout the Steelers' practice building. Polamalu hasn't been ruled out of Sunday's game at Kansas City despite injuring his left knee for the second time this season. However, it seems more likely he will miss one game and attempt to return for an AFC North game at Baltimore on Nov. 29. Polamalu is "questionable at best" for the Chiefs (2-7), according to Tomlin. Questionable is a lot better than out, which is what the Steelers (6-3) feared their defensive star would be after he strained a posterior cruciate ligament tackling running back Cedric Benson early in Cincinnati's 18-12 victory on Sunday. "He is in a great frame of mind. He feels really good, but we're going to follow the expert advice that we get from our medical staff in terms of how we proceed," Tomlin said Tuesday. "In the short term, we're going to take it day to day. But (it's) really encouraging, more encouraging, I think, than was initially anticipated." Polamalu, a five-time Pro Bowl player, missed the Steelers' second through fifth games with a medial collateral ligament sprain, and he played less than a half in their opener against Tennessee. The Steelers (6-3) lost two of the four he missed, and all three of their losses occurred when Polamalu was out or played only a single series.

Braylon Edwards pleads not guilty to assault count

CLEVELAND (AP)—Former Cleveland Browns wide receiver Braylon Edwards has pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge after he was accused of punching a man outside a downtown nightclub last month. Edwards was arraigned in Cleveland Municipal Court on Tuesday. The 26-year-old was traded to the New York Jets two days after he was accused of punching a friend of NBA star LeBron James on Oct. 5. James called Edwards' actions "childish." Edwards waived his right to a speedy trial and was scheduled for a Dec. 12 court hearing. His attorney hasn't returned a request for comment. While with Cleveland, Edwards dropped passes, criticized the team's play-calling, argued with teammates and famously took a helicopter to a college football game in 2006 despite being told not to go.

Turkeys up for grabs in USSP Turkey Shoot

It's that time of the year again when USS Peleliu Club will be giving out frozen turkeys to the Top 3 winners of the 5th Annual Marianas Turkey Shoot Pool Tournament set for this Sunday, Nov. 22.

USSP owner Ken Phillips said winners of the tournament will be assured of a Thanksgiving feast four days in advance of the holiday.

"The first, second, and third place winners will win frozen turkeys. For gravy, the prize pot will be split three ways with the champion taking home half," he said.

The Marianas Turkey Shoot Pool Tournament will adopt a blind-draw, double elimination 8-ball tournament format that will follow the rules of the Billiard Congress of America rules.

Phillips added that although a total of 16 slots will be available for competition, previous years' experience saw the brackets filled even before the 7pm start time.

"With early entries, the bracket can be completed earlier and more players accommodated," he said.

Entry fee for the Marianas Turkey Shoot Pool Tournament is $25 on the day of the tournament. Early sign-ups need only to fork out $20. All fees go into the prize money "gravy pot."

For more information on the Marianas Turkey Shoot, call USSP at 233-1984 or 286-7643.

Last year, Senen Pangilinan overcame a strong 16-player field to win the 4th Annual Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-Ball Tournament. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Senen Pangilinan overcame a strong 16-player field to win the 4th Annual Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-Ball Tournament last year.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

John rules SGA Nov. Ace/Turkey Shootout

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jayson John earned a slot to the Saipan Golfers Association's Ace of the Aces event next month after winning the SGA November Ace/Turkey Shootout on Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The 28-handicapper John shot a net 61 built on a 49 on the front and 40 on the back to beat 24 other SGA members for the monthly title and the ticket to the club championship. John had a three-stroke lead over runner-up and 26-handicapper Joe Deleon Guerrero, who carded a net 64 after firing a 44 and 46 on the front and back nines, respectively. Rounding out the Top 3 was Das Krishnan, an 18-handicapper who fired a 40 on the front and 43 on the back for a net 65 and gross 83.

The Top 3 finishers received cash prizes, while all participants in the pre-Thanksgiving Day tournament were given uncooked turkeys. The 22 other SGA members who joined the weekend tournament were the following: Ray Dela Cruz (net 67); Larry I. Deleon Guerrero (67); Edward Sablan (68); Mariano Fajardo (68); Art Deleon Guerrero (69); Steve Balakrishna (71); Vicente Aldan (71); Frances Sablan (71); Vince Rosario (73); Ray San Nicolas (76); Tony Deleon Guerrero (76); John Babauta (76); Martin Sablan (76); Joe Rosario (77); Ed Manibusan (78); Joe Demapan (78); Jung Teack (78); John Takai (79); Jose I. Sablan (79); John Cruz (80); Jesus Castro (84); and Nobert Sablan (85).

John's win in the November Ace was highlighted by two birdies. His first was on the par-5 hole No. 1 and the second was on the par-3 No. 15.

Also making two birdies was Demapan (hole No. 6 and 9), while Balakrishna, Castro, Dela Cruz, Krishnan, Manibusan, Ed, Martin, and Norbert Sablan, and San Nicolas had one each.

There were only two longest drive winners in Dela Cruz on the par-4 No. 7 and Vince Rosario on the par-5 No. 11. Making one greenies each were Takai, San Nicolas, Manibusan, and Vince Rosario.

Meanwhile, SGA will hold the December Ace tournament this Sunday at Coral Ocean Point. Winner of the weekend event will complete the Ace of the Aces cast. Check-in time for the Sunday tournament is 8:30am, while tee-off is at 9:30am.

TOUGH

From Page 32

and women's doubles, men's A, B and C singles, and women's B and C singles.

Each win in any event will give a team one point. All six squads will play in a round-robin format and the team with the most points will be declared the champion. Trophies will be awarded to the Top 3 placers.

This year's team tournament will run for three weekends starting this Saturday until Dec. 13. Games every Friday and Saturday will be played from 5pm to 10pm, while Sunday's matches will run from 4pm to 9pm.

Each team is allowed to have a maximum of 10 players, two each from Men's A, B, and C divisions, and women's B and C level.

Meanwhile, Kim thanked Traders Insurance, especially its president and owner Lito Mendoza, for their continued commitment to NMBA and its programs and tournaments.

"For the past three years, Traders Insurance has been a regular supporter of NMBA, whether we have a big tournament or just a weekend event. We are very thankful for their support and are looking forward to our continued partnership in the promotion of badminton in the CNMI," Kim said.

Ernesto Licop, Traders Insurance chief operating officer and general manager, handed the $1,500 check to NMBA officials and members in a brief ceremony yesterday at the Trader Insurance's office in Beach Road and reiterated the company's commitment to the association.

"NMBA's team tournament at the end of the year has become Traders Insurance trademark and we will continue to support this tournament, which we believe help promote a healthy lifestyle, good sportsmanship, and camaraderie among all members of the badminton community on Saipan," Licop said.

"We are calling on other companies to support not only badminton tournaments, but also other similar endeavors, as we must all be responsible in promoting a healthy and active lifestyle through involvement in sports," he added.

Below are the participating teams and their members in this weekend's tournament.

Katipuneros: Macoi Aguda (team captain), Jerry Hibi, Mario Diola, Vic Regis, Emily Vargas, Malou Malasarte, Puy Macario, Rob Harrell, Elna Curate, and Lupe Sabino.

Star Aces: Hapi Gabriel (team captain), Joseph Santos, Jorge Olanda, Michelle C., Cristy Villaflor, Shirley Kim, Rodwealth Espana, Roding Domingo, and Jenine Savellano.

Magnum Smashers: Ferdie Arago (team captain), Andreu Galvez, Paul Navarro, Obet Aguilar, Jaja Samonte, Lucelle Lampera, Anna Alvarez, Cris Hilario, Rafael Zapanta, and Annette Quiambao.

Air Benders: Robert Reyes (team captain), Saul Gargallo, Noli Santos, Aries Cordero, Elma Labuson, Ingrid Sanches, Lea Estinopo, Manatsu Omori, Carlo Dotimas, and Riza Yutuc.

The Sizzlers: Daniel Macario (team captain), Gary Bandoja, Keno San Pablo, Ariel Mariano, Gigi Zapanta, Marlene Peraja, Cheng Saturno, Ezekiel Macario, Kanata Omori, and Merlie Tolentino.

TNT Bombers: Lito Mendoza (team captain), Edwin Montoya, Roger Vales, Jojo Savellano, Anna Rose Omori, Angie Ito, Joey Algenio, Luis Camacho, and Annette Ta.

HOPWOOD

From Page 32

with schoolmate William Johnson (9:24) and Gregorio Sablan (9:33) of Hopwood coming in second and third, respectively.

Tammy Ackerman of Saipan Community was the lone entrant in the girls' 10-and-under division and crossed the finish line in 7:35.

Hopwood also swept the 14-and-under age group as Maryann Waing and Braylon Floresca won the boys and girls races with times of 24:55 and 15:04.02, respectively.

Waing actually was the lone runner to complete the 5,000m race in the girls' 14-and-under as Keolani Dionisio, also of Hopwood, failed to finish.

Felix Palacios came in less than a second after his schoolmate Floresca in the boys' 14-and-under, registering a 15:04.2, while Kimo Olopai made it a 1-2-3 finish for Hopwood in the division with his time of 16.44.

James Castro of Saipan Southern High School and Jeralyn Castillo of Marianas High School topped the 18-and-under division.

Castro crossed the finish line in 12:48 to win the boys 5,000m race. He was followed by MHS teammates Michael Mancao (12:53) and Danny Bai (14:02).

Castro, for her part, beat veteran runner and schoolmate Reylyn Sapong, 17:18 to 17:52, while Lina Manalili was third with her 19:42.

Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas was elated with his school winning three of the seven races. He said his students taking part and succeeding in sports events goes a long way in improving the middle school's image in the community.

A total of 38 youth runners took part in the cross country event supervised by Northern Marianas Athletics officials Joe Wabol and Bobby Winkfield.

Winkfield said last weekend's turnout was a little down from the previous two stagings of the cross country series, as other schools and students were busy taking part in numerous school and sporting events.

The cross country series culminates this weekend with the 2009 All School Cross Country Championship at the same CPA Airport Field.

Registration time is set at 2pm, while races will start at 3pm. The event is open to male and female students in the 8-and-under, 10-and-under, 12-and-under, 14-and-under, and 18-and-under age groups.

Like in the series, no entrance fees are required for the championship and NMA will be handing out trophies and medals to the top individual finishers/schools in the various age groups.

CELTICS

From Page 32

the second half, including the crucial last four points of the Celtics.

With the rest of his teammates struggling, Sean Sablan tried to keep the Celtics afloat in the first half, scoring half of the team's total output. However, Sablan's good offensive performance was no match to Ol'Aces' balance attack, allowing the Sonny Flores-coached squad to take a big lead at halftime, 33-16. Ol'Aces had six players making it to the scoreboard in the first 20 minutes of play, while only three contributed on the Celtics' offense.

Sablan added four more points in the early goings of the second half and Taguchi and Webb picked up from there to pull off a close win.

No Ol'Aces player scored in double figures in their disappointing loss, as the best that Trevor Ogumoro could do was tallied nine markers.

Celtics 54 – T. Taguchi 24, Sablan 12, Webb 10, Joh. Villagomez 6, Nicholas 2.

Ol'Aces 53 – Ogumoro 9, Taylor 8, Deleon Guerrero 6, Tomokane 6, Ngirchongor 6, Dillay 4.

Scoring by halves: 16-33, 54-53.

SONICS

From Page 32

and-under and 16-and-under age groups. We have several players who will play in Guam for the first time and it will be a great learning experience for them to challenge players from various villages there," Diaz said. "We will also let our 16-and-under players compete in the 18-and-under, so they will get the feel to compete in the higher age group."

Both basketball clubs thanked the public and private sectors, which are supporting the teams' campaign in the tournament that will run from Nov. 21 to 29 and will feature nine other villages in Guam.

"The Sonics would like to thank Rep. Edward T. Salas for the team uniforms and financial assistance. We also thanked the Basketball Association of the Northern Marianas Islands for their monetary donation. Through numerous donations and contributions from family, friends, former players, and members of the government and business community, the Sonics was able to purchase airfare tickets," Tudela said.

"The team is still short of $2,000 for hotel accommodations and any financial assistance in this tough economic times will be greatly appreciated," the Sonics coach added.

For his part, Diaz thanked the following for making Rollers' trip to Guam possible: Tan Siu Lin Foundation, BANMI, Hertz Rent A Car, EFC, Toothworks, Reps. Salas, Arnold Palacios, Ramon Tebuteb, Frank Dela Cruz, Joseph Guerrero, and Heinz Hofschneider, Aon Insurance, IT&E, Atty. Ed Arriola, Wing Travel, Guam Aiport Hotel, Megabyte, and Saipan Shipping.

For more information about the Sonics team, contact Tudela at southernsonics@yahoo.com or 483-9477.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	8	3	.727	-
Toronto	5	6	.455	3
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	3 1/2
New York	1	9	.100	6 1/2
New Jersey	0	11	.000	8

Southeast Division

Atlanta	9	2	.818	-
Orlando	8	3	.727	1
Miami	7	3	.700	1 1/2
Charlotte	3	7	.300	5 1/2
Washington	2	7	.222	6

Central Division

Cleveland	8	3	.727	-
Indiana	5	3	.625	1 1/2
Milwaukee	5	3	.625	1 1/2
Chicago	6	4	.600	1 1/2
Detroit	5	6	.455	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	8	3	.727	-
Houston	6	5	.545	2
San Antonio	4	4	.500	2 1/2
New Orleans	4	8	.333	4 1/2
Memphis	2	8	.200	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	8	3	.727	-
Portland	8	4	.667	1/2
Oklahoma City	6	5	.545	2
Utah	4	6	.400	3 1/2
Minnesota	1	10	.091	7

Pacific Division

Phoenix	10	2	.833	-
L.A. Lakers	8	3	.727	1 1/2
Sacramento	5	5	.500	4
L.A. Clippers	4	8	.333	6
Golden State	3	7	.300	6

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 114, Golden State 108
Indiana 91, New Jersey 83
Oklahoma City 100, Miami 87
New Orleans 110, L.A. Clippers 102
Phoenix 111, Houston 105
Denver 130, Toronto 112
Chicago 101, Sacramento 87
L.A. Lakers 106, Detroit 93

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	7	0
Sixers	7	1
Sonics	8	2
670 Rollers II	5	4
Runnin' Rebels	5	4
CK Saints	5	4
Sparks	4	2
Rollers I	3	5
Ol'Aces	2	6
Celtics	3	7
Young 670 Rollers 3	2	8
Hi-5	0	9

2009 NMIFA Fall Youth Football Festival

Above, Paire Football Club (red) and MP United players in action during the co-ed U6 division of the 2009 NMIFA Fall Youth Football Festival on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Above right, Paire's Won Jun Kim, second right, is up againts Tan Holdings FC strikers during their U13 division finals.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Right, an Independent female striker is sandwiched by two Tan Holdings FC players during their game in the U8 division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Far right, a Matansa strike (in yellow uniform) tries to keep the ball away from a Paire player during their game in the U8 division.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Far left, Matansa (in yellow uniform) and MP United players chase the ball during their round-robin match in the girls' U13 division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, members of Matansa U8 co-ed team wait for the start of their game against Paire.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire and Tan Holdings FC players in action during their U10 division match.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tan Holdings Football Club goalie kicks the ball out during their game against Independents in the co-ed U8 division.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An MP United goalie watches hers teammates battle Tan Holdings players for the ball.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United's Jehn Joyner goes for a corner kick during their semis match against Tan Holdings FC in the U13 division.

Turkeys up for grabs in USSP Turkey Shoot

It's that time of the year again when USS Peleliu Club will be giving out frozen turkeys to the Top 3 winners of the 5th Annual Marianas Turkey Shoot Pool Tournament set for this Sunday, Nov. 22. 30

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Suns continue strong start with win at Rockets

The Phoenix Suns recovered from a slow start to get a 111-105 win over the Houston Rockets in the NBA on Tuesday, rallying from a double-digit deficit to victory for the fifth time this season. 28

Tough competition seen in Traders tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2009 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament promises to feature a high level of competition when it kicks off this Saturday at the REM Centre.

"I would say that matches in this year's Traders Insurance tournament will be tougher compared to the first two editions of the annual event," said Shirley Kim, president of the organizing Northern Marianas Badminton Association.

"Our first two tournaments were more of warm-up events, as NMBA was just starting then, having recreational players, and teaching newcomers the basics of the sports. After three years, our players are now more competitive. We also have a lot of new members who are not just into recreational games, but are now ready for actual competition. One of the highlights of the tournament will be our junior players, who are expected to give the veterans a hard time. These junior players have shown significant improvements since joining NMBA last year," Kim added.

The third edition of the Traders Insurance-sponsored tournament will feature six teams playing in seven events, namely mixed doubles, men

See TOUGH on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Traders Insurance chief operating officer and general manager Ernesto Licop, fifth left, present the $1,500 donation to NMBA officials and members during a brief ceremony at Traders Insurance Company's office in Beach Road.

Celtics extend streak in Rotary caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Celtics continued their strong showing in the latter part of the regular season of the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League, escaping with a 54-53 win over Ol'Aces on Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was the Celtics' third in a row after losing their first seven games. The win also boosted the John Villagomez-mentored squad's chances for the playoffs as they matched the number of wins (three) of eighth placer Rollers I (3-5) and had a one-victory advantage over Ol'Aces.

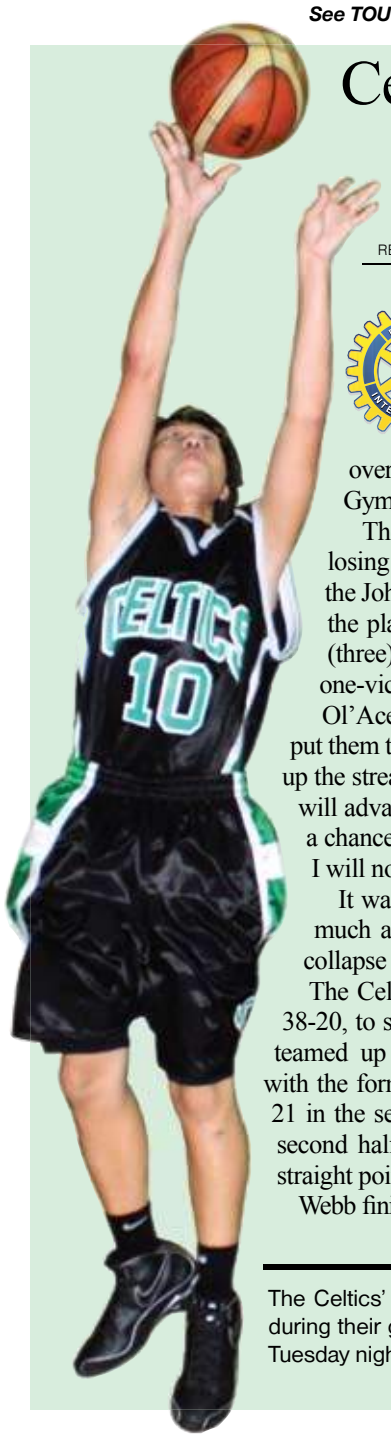
Ol'Aces dropped to a 2-6 slate and another loss will put them to 10th place in the team standings and move up the streaking Celtics to ninth. Only the Top 8 teams will advance to the playoffs and the Celtics still have a chance for the last playoff ticket as long as Rollers I will not get win No. 4.

It was a sorry defeat for Ol'Aces, who led by as much as 17 points in the first half, 16-33, only to collapse in the second half.

The Celtics outgunned Ol'Aces in the second half, 38-20, to steal the win. Tim Taguchi and James Webb teamed up in the Celtics' come-from-behind victory with the former firing a game-high 24 points, including 21 in the second half. Taguchi made two triples in the second half and at one point in that canto scored 10 straight points.

Webb finished with 10 points, making eight of them in

See CELTICS on Page 30



The Celtics' Tim Taguchi goes for an uncontested basket during their game against Ol'Aces in the Rotary caging on Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hopwood dominates final cross country series

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Hopwood Junior High School runners won three of the seven divisions in the third and final installment of the All School Cross Country series held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Joan Reyes of Hopwood topped the girls' 12-and-under 2,500-meter race timing in at 7:21. She was followed by schoolmate Tiana Odada five seconds later at 7:26, while Lydin Johnson of Saipan Community School came in third at 7:33.

What's amazing with Reyes' time was it bested runners in the boys' 12-and-under division, which was led by Saipan Community's Dylan Ackerman (8:35)

See HOPWOOD on Page 30

MARK RABAGO

Hopwood Junior High School runners pose with principal Jonas Barcinas during a lull in the third and final 2009 All Schools Cross Country series last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Sonics, Rollers to compete in Guam caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two basketball clubs on Saipan will be representing the CNMI in the 3rd Annual Barrigada MPC Thanksgiving Tournament in Guam.

The Saipan Southern Sonics Club is heading to Guam tomorrow to compete in the 16-and-under age group, while Rollers Basketball Club will field teams in the 14-and-under, 16-and-under, and 18-and-under divisions.

The Jesse Tudela-coached Sonics want to make a mark anew in the annual tournament after missing last year's event. Tudela's wards ruled the 18-and-under competition of the Thanksgiving caging in 2007 and finished fourth in the 14-and-under age group.

The Joe Diaz-mentored Rollers made it to last year's tournament with their 16-and-under squad placing runner-up to hosts Barrigada Crusaders and the visitors' 14-and-under team finishing fourth.

"I think we have a good chance to finish in the Top 3 this year in the 14-

See SONICS on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

John Norita plays for Rollers Basketball Club, which will be going to Guam this weekend for a Thanksgiving tournament.